

Iran talks tough on islands

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran would fight to keep every "millimetre" of the three strategic Gulf islands claimed also by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said. "These islands are historically part of Iran and we would not retreat from even one millimetre of them," the minister said, referring to the disputed islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. Mr. Velayati, who was speaking to a group of Revolutionary Guards' commanders, said Iran would first try to resolve the problem with the UAE through political means, but would defend itself if pressured or invaded. Mr. Velayati's remarks were published by Tehran newspapers Saturday. Iran and the UAE, which also claims sovereignty over the islands in the southern Gulf, were scheduled to resume negotiations over the disputed territory in September. But last week Abu Dhabi cancelled a trip by the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, after Iran reaffirmed on Sept. 8 its sovereignty over the islands. "UAE is convinced that there is no desire on the Iranian side to ensure the success of the visit," said a UAE spokesman.



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جوردان تكيم يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

19 killed in Turkey in Kurdish violence

ANKARA (R) — Nineteen people were killed in fresh Kurdish-related violence in southeast Turkey, security officials said on Saturday. Guerrillas of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) killed six people Saturday when they rammed minibuses with automatic weapons near the southeastern town of Mutki in Bitlis province, officials said. They said the PKK guerrillas opened fire on a convoy of three minibuses in the afternoon near Mutki town in Bitlis province, wounding 11 other passengers. Turkish troops killed four PKK rebels on Friday in a clash near the town of Ovacik, a statement from the regional governor's office said. PKK guerrillas killed five state employees on Friday night when they attacked a club for civil servants in the southeastern town of Egl, Anatolian news agency reported. A PKK rebel was killed in Diyarbakir province. The body of another guerrilla, who was believed shot dead in an earlier clash, was found in Simak province, the statement said. Two people died on Saturday when their vehicle hit a landmine, planted by PKK rebels in Hakkari province. Seven other people were wounded in the blast.

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PCC to meet in two weeks

TUNIS (AFP) — A meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) is to be held in two weeks to endorse the agreement on Palestinian autonomy signed with Israel, a senior Palestinian official said here Saturday. The meeting of the council was likely to be held in Tunis, said Executive Committee member Sulaiman Najjab. Mr. Najjab said the meeting of the 100-member council would be preceded by a session of the decision-making Executive Committee, which approved the self-rule deal despite the dissent of two of its members. He ruled out an early meeting of the 400-strong Palestine National Council, the "parliament-in-exile" whose members are dispersed around the world, but said "maybe one can be held in Jericho," which receives autonomy next month along with the Gaza Strip.

Bouez criticises Israeli-PLO accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez Saturday criticised the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, saying his country wanted to see "more extended" Palestinian powers in the autonomous areas. Mr. Bouez, here to take part in Sunday's meeting of the foreign ministers of Arab League countries (see separate story), said he had some "observations" to make on the accord "in particular on the subject of the return of Palestinian refugees," especially those in Lebanon. He said inter-Arab differences were "unacceptable" currently because "we are embarking on a very important phase."

Guerrillas attack SLA positions

MARIJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas attacked posts manned by Israel's surrogate South Lebanon (SLA) militia Saturday. Security sources said no casualties were reported. The sources said the guerrillas fired several mortar rounds at an SLA post in Shoumariyeh in the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone" at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT). They said the guerrillas also had attacked Shoumariyeh and another SLA post in Rashaf with rocket-propelled grenades at midnight (2100 GMT). The attacks were claimed by the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah. An Islamic resistance communique said the assaults inflicted "several Israeli casualties."

Hizbollah-army tension in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Tension ran high in a Beirut neighbourhood on Saturday after Lebanese troops briefly detained members of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah, witnesses said. The incident occurred a day before a rally called by the group to commemorate the killing by troops of protesters opposing an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Hizbollah announced the rally in a Beirut suburb despite a government ban on demonstrations. Witnesses said Hizbollah men, armed with U.S.-made M-16 assault rifles, took to the streets of Wadi Abu Jini district of Beirut after two comrades were detained at an army checkpoint in the area.

Israel rejects referendum on deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Saturday rejected a call by Israeli opposition parties for a national referendum on the Palestinian self-rule deal signed on Monday in Washington. Mr. Peres told Israel Radio a referendum would limit Israel's ability to negotiate. "Every time the other party will ask, 'okay, are you empowered to make a decision,' we have to turn to a referendum," he said. The opposition Likud party, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, has repeatedly demanded the government hold a referendum on the deal with the PLO which it says is a step towards the formation of a Palestinian state (see page 2). Mr. Peres said: "When the Likud decided to give back the last inch of Sinai, did they make a referendum?"

King: No step yet to delay polls, but situation under study

HM underlines need for national unity and cohesion at 'these sensitive times'

Jordan supports Palestinian decision and seeks increased coordination with PLO

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday plans to hold parliamentary elections on Nov. 8 remain unchanged, even though Jordan is "seriously considering the implications and possibilities of many of the questions to which we have no answers," in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli self-rule agreement. Among the possibilities that the King cited as reasons for reconsidering holding the elections as scheduled were possible attempts to raise the autonomy agreement during the elections in a way that might harm national unity.

King Hussein also cited the unique demographic composition of Jordan that might be affected by the decision of some Palestinians to return to the occupied territories, an issue which he said will be discussed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he visits Jordan later this week. "Protecting democracy is a commitment and a duty and a march on a direction from which there is no going back," King

Hussein told a group of prominent journalists and writers Saturday.

But "I call on everyone to contribute to the enrichment of this (democratic) process by focusing on the necessity of maintaining national unity and protecting it against any attempt to harm it," King Hussein said.

Warning against any attempts to sow discord in society at this sensitive time in Jordan's history, the King said: "I emphasise that we are one family... Cooperation should be our way and dialogue should be part of our lives, but discipline is also required."

"I will forever be the opponent of anybody who tries to cause harm to any other citizen," King Hussein told the group at the Royal Court. "We cannot face the enemy divided," he stressed. The King reiterated support for the PLO-Israeli deal on self-rule for the Palestinians, saying that Jordan has respected the independent Palestinian decision since 1974 when it recognised the organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The King said 1974 marked a turning point from a situation

where Jordan tried to recover the occupied territories, to a new situation where "we accepted the independence of the Palestinian decision, at the Palestinian and Arab request." He said, however, that Jordan did not work to

liberate the occupied territories so that they (the Palestinians) would go back to it, but in order to allow its people to decide what they wanted.

King Hussein confirmed Jordan's decision to no longer provide the Palestinians with an "umbrella" to attend the peace talks because it is not needed any more, adding that the mechanism was used to enable the Palestinians to represent themselves in

the negotiations. "Jordan will continue to provide utmost support for the Palestinian people," said the King, emphasising that Jordan will work to have stronger relations with the PLO.

Though expressing dissatisfaction with the previous level of coordination that the PLO maintained with Jordan, King Hussein said Jordan will seek better coordination with the organisation.

In response to a question, the King said "the situation" could have been better had there been closer coordination among Arab parties, saying that lack of confidence could have been the reason behind the lack of coordination.

"We will soon receive Chairman Arafat and we will be at the gates of a new era of real coordination, or such will be our position and we hope that we will rise to the required level to deal with the sensitive circumstances whose outcome will reflect on the future generations," King Hussein said.

The King also said that coordination among Arab states in general is below the required level, adding that it is "illogical that the situation remains as it

is." Referring to Jordan's position on the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and war, King Hussein said that Jordan never supported any party against the other but was mainly concerned with protecting the Arab World and people from a disaster and finding an Arab solution to the conflict.

"We stood by Iraq and the people of Iraq and we will continue to stand by (the people of) Iraq, in which, according to a report by UNICEF, the number of children who die because of lack of food and medicine will rise to a million in the coming few months," the King said.

"We were concerned for Kuwait and concerned for Saudi Arabia and concerned for Iraq and all parts of the Arab World," the King emphasised.

In that light, Jordan has nothing to apologise for, King Hussein said, recalling demands, which he did not specify, from Arab Gulf states that Jordan apologise for its position before Arab reconciliation could begin.

"But under the circumstances, if I was to apologise for any personal offence that I might

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with the local press in a gathering attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief

Khalid Al Karaki, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Mo'an Abu Nowar and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid (Petra photo)

Palestine's capital will be East Jerusalem — Arafat

HAMBURG (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview appearing Monday that he hoped to announce soon the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Arafat told the German newsweekly Der Spiegel that "Palestinians and Israelis will live in peace side by side in Jerusalem," and that West Jerusalem would remain the capital of the Jewish state.

In an excerpt released by the magazine Saturday, Mr. Arafat said the future of the Palestinian state rests in "the framework of a confederation with Jordan."

Turning to the PLO-Israeli autonomy pact signed Monday in Washington, Mr. Arafat said the accord was "the best that could be achieved given current relations in the Arab World, and the new world order."

He said criticism that his actions had irritated Syria and harmed Damascus in its talks with Israel over recovering the Golan Heights was baseless. "I know that our Syrian friends have prepared several proposals to solve the problem of the

Golan," he said. "As far as I know, Syria will sign an agreement with Israel in the near future, as will Lebanon and Jordan," he said.

Once all the bilateral agreements are signed, "all the Arab states will reach peace accords with Israel," the PLO leader added.

Mr. Arafat is due to visit Egypt on Sunday to brief Arab League foreign ministers at Arab League headquarters on details of the accord.

Reopening U.S. office

The United States has discussed with the PLO the opening of an office in Washington once Congress lifts certain restrictions, a State Department spokesman said Friday.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the talks took place earlier this week when Mr. Arafat was in Washington for the signing of the peace accord with Israel.

Earlier Friday in Amman, Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erakat said the PLO will set up diplomatic representation in the United States within weeks at the same level as its delegation in France.

Dr. Erakat, deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks with Israel, said the organisation would establish official representation after U.S. laws banning contacts with the PLO were repealed.

Mr. McCurry cautioned against Palestinian optimism on how quickly the U.S. decision could be made, saying their idea of opening the office soon "could or could not be shared by Congress."

Mr. McCurry said the State Department had reviewed all the anti-PLO statutes passed by Congress over the past 20 years and found about five or six that would bar the PLO from opening an office in the United States.

Congress in 1987 closed down the PLO's offices in New York and Washington.

Mr. McCurry said the White House and Congress will hold discussions next week to work out a possible timetable for striking the statutes from the books.

"We've generally indicated that we're willing to address those restrictions in a way that would allow us to continue a dialogue that would be valuable to the

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin, Assad to visit Egypt

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will travel to Egypt for a surprise summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a spokesman said Saturday.

Mr. Rabin will leave Sunday, spending "several hours" meeting with Mr. Mubarak in Alexandria, said the spokesman in Mr. Rabin's office, David Kleizelmal.

Another spokesman, Gad Ben Ari, said the Israeli premier would fly to Egypt following a cabinet meeting and would return to Israel in the evening.

Israeli officials have been urging Egypt to use its influence in the Arab World to try to persuade other Arab states to recognise and normalise ties with Israel.

After signing a peace treaty with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington this week, Mr. Rabin made a surprise trip to Morocco, where he met with King Hassan II. There was also speculation that Mr. Rabin might travel to Tunisia after his trip to Morocco, but he returned to Israel because of the Jewish New Year holiday.

Mr. Rabin last met the Egyptian president on April 14 although Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who signed the historic autonomy agreement at the White House on Monday, visited Egypt in July.

Mr. Peres said Saturday that Egypt and Morocco were extremely important for the PLO.

"The PLO has almost nobody to turn to, apart from Egypt — which has played an important role here — and Morocco," Mr. Peres said in an Israeli Radio interview.

Mr. Peres also said that one of the reasons behind Israel's move of making peace with the PLO was the growing influence of fundamentalist Islamic groups in the occupied territories, notably Hamas.

"The PLO became so weak that it could really disappear, and then we would have remained with Hamas," he said.

Assad to visit Egypt

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad is to visit Egypt in the next few days to discuss the dramatic developments in the Middle East peace process with Mubarak, an Egyptian paper said Saturday.

Mr. Assad, in an interview with the weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Yom, said he had planned to visit Egypt last week but had to delay the trip because of a slight illness.

Government launches 5-year economic and social plan

Autonomy will draw investment to region — Fariz

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government Saturday launched the Kingdom's 1993-1997 economic and social plan which envisages a JD 5,242 million overall investment at current prices spread over five years.

Launching the plan at a news conference, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz said that the share of the public sector was estimated at JD 1,874 million, or 35.8 per cent of the total investment.

The private sector was given a share of JD 3,368 million or 64.1 per cent of the total investment in 1993. The percentage is to rise to 67.1 per cent by 1997.

Dr. Fariz stressed that the plan reflects the government's keenness to rationalise government spending, especially in production sectors, and expanding the role of the private sector in economic development.

The minister explained that the government's spending would amount to JD 810 million in social investments, JD 890 million in infrastructure projects and JD 174 million in "other government expenditure."

As such, the three areas represent 43.2 per cent, 47.5 per cent and 9.3 per cent respectively of the investments earmarked for the public sector.

According to Dr. Fariz, the spread over the three areas clearly shows that the government intends to concentrate its activities in the education, health and other social projects as well as water, electricity, roads and transport schemes.

The minister also said that Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho would attract new foreign investment to Jordan.

"The peace process is a global one and will bring investment to the whole region and Jordan is ready, because of its infrastructure and open economic policies, to attract an important share of these investments," Dr. Fariz told journalists.

"The stabilisation process across the whole region will benefit all the inhabitants of the region equally," he said.

He denied suggestions that the funnelling of cash into the occupied territories that is expected to follow Palestinian autonomy

would be to the detriment of Jordan.

The general framework of the five-year plan aims at attaining an average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth of six per cent at constant prices, and reducing the general budget deficit, before financing, to no more than three per cent of GDP at the end of the period.

Other targets include achieving a balance in the current account of the balance of payment, reducing the foreign debt ratio to GDP to no more than 100 per cent, reducing the ratio of instalments and interest of foreign debt to exports to no more than 25 per cent, lowering overall consumption ratio to the domestic product to no more than 89 per cent and maintaining price stability at a four to five per cent rate per annum.

The plan attaches high priority to achieving a balanced social development "through reducing the unemployment rate to 9.6 per cent at the end of 1997, improving the level of education, health, housing and other social

(Continued on page 5)

Damascus alliance calls on Palestinians to foil peace plan

Combined agency dispatches

DAMASCUS — Ten groups opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel peace accord, on Saturday urged Palestinians to work to foil the pact and warned it could lead to a Palestinian "civil war."

Opponents of the agreement, which provides for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, hope to forge a cohesive front against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

They charge that Mr. Arafat, who witnessed the signing of the accord in Washington last Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, has abandoned the goal of an independent Palestinian homeland.

Mr. Arafat has argued that the autonomy agreement will lead, in time, to independence.

The groups issued a statement condemning the agreement as a means "to establish a greater Israel which plans to control the Middle East economically, politically and militarily."

It was especially critical of Mr. Arafat, saying he "has been misleading the Palestinians. Arabs

and Muslims ... to promote the disgraceful agreement, which implies the dangers of a civil war among the Palestinians."

It called on Palestinians "to intensify struggle in order to foil the Arafat-Rabin agreement" with the goal of "full liberation of Palestine, with its capital in Jerusalem."

The opposition groups, while united against the pact, have widely differing ideologies and may find it hard to coordinate any campaign.

They range from the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas, most active in the Gaza Strip, which rejects any dealings with the Jewish state and calls for its destruction, to PLO factions that advocate working through Palestinian institutions to subvert the accord.

Earlier Saturday, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met with a visiting Iranian diplomat in Damascus to help coordinate opposition to the PLO-Israeli pact.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Hussein Sheikholeslam, Iran's deputy foreign minister, conveyed a message to Mr. Assad from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. It

gave no details.

Iran has rejected the peace agreement, calling it a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Assad has indicated he will not oppose the peace accord, saying it is up to the Palestinians themselves to decide on its merits.

But he has not prevented the groups opposed to the pact from using the Syrian capital as a base. Many of the factions are headquartered in Damascus.

Mr. Sheikholeslam met here Friday night with senior Hamas leader Mustafa Lidawi.

Mr. Lidawi, who is Hamas' envoy to Damascus, is a refugee from the occupied Gaza Strip who was deported from the occupied territories in 1992 for activities against the Jewish state.

He is a top member of Hamas who is believed to have been one of the masterminds of the nearly six-year-old Palestinian uprising and a leader of Hamas fighters in the Strip.

He repeated earlier Hamas denials that he had signed a non-violence agreement with Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction.

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Arab League expected to approve Israel-PLO deal

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League foreign ministers meet here on Sunday to give their expected backing to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel autonomy pact, despite opposition or reservations from some members.

Three countries have openly condemned the accord on Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington on Monday: Libya, calling it a "farce," Iraq, describing it as "a sellout," and Lebanon, which said it weakened the Arab position in the peace process.

But most of the Arab World has backed the deal granting autonomy first to the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Syria and Sudan gave the agreement a tepid reception but have done little more than organize meetings with hardline opponents of the limited autonomy deal.

The League will be seeking unanimity among its 21 members at the meeting, which is to be attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, an Arab diplomat

said. It is likely to stress that peace will not be final until the liberation of all the occupied territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, South Lebanon and Jerusalem, and insist on the need for a comprehensive settlement based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, he added.

Mr. Arafat, basking in the glory of Israel's recognition of the PLO and his reception at the White House, is expected to be the star of the meeting but the PLO leader will be called upon to justify his option for a separate peace with Israel, 14 years after Egypt did.

The ministers will allow him "to obtain the greatest official and public Arab support," another diplomat said. "This support will bolster his position with the Palestinians, who remain divided over the accord."

A lifting of the Arab economic boycott of Israel, strongly urged by the United States, is not on the agenda.

As for Iraq's return into the Arab fold, League Secretary

General Esmat Abdul Meguid will brief the foreign ministers on his efforts to bring about Arab reconciliation, league sources said.

U.S., British and French "threats" against Libya will also be discussed, they said.

Libya faces international sanctions for refusing to hand over two suspects wanted in Britain and the United States for the bombing of a Pan Am jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988, which left 270 people dead.

An international air and military embargo imposed to force Tripoli to hand over the two men and two others wanted by France in connection with the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger, is set to be tightened if there are no developments before Oct. 1.

The Arab foreign ministers are expected to uphold the U.N. sanctions while "reiterating their solidarity" with the Libyan people and "halting" Tripoli's measures to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

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هذه هي الاصل

Rabin may be forced to referendum to shore up peacemaking

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's choice of handshake partners will be tested and his peace initiative with Yasser Arafat may squeak through by a tiny margin in parliament next week.

If so, Mr. Rabin will have to find a way to mobilise public opinion or lose momentum towards the next breakthrough — an agreement with Syria.

His choices are a referendum or new elections.

The showdown comes Monday, when the Knesset, Israel's parliament, begins debate on the peace package signed in Washington with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). A vote is expected Tuesday.

The proposal for a non-binding

poll may be hard to refuse because it comes from Shas, the ultra-religious party of Sephardic Jews that holds six seats in the 120-member parliament.

"This is the only guarantee that future agreements will not be attacked as having been made by a minority government," said Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

"If there's a majority in favour, the right-wing and the settlers can no longer shout that it's against the people," he said.

Mr. Deri suggested a referendum, which has never before been held in Israel and which will need parliament's approval, for Nov. 3, the day of municipal elections.

Without Shas, Mr. Rabin's Labour Party will command a 56-seat coalition and will have to rely on the outside support of five Arab members of parliament to

get a fragile one-vote majority of approval. Some Labour Party officials argue that such a victory is good enough but Mr. Rabin wants a Jewish majority in parliament, one that does not rely on pro-PLO activists.

Nissim Zivli, secretary-general of Labour, did not rule out a referendum but said that could stop the peace process just as it was gathering steam.

"From one side, I would like very much to have a vote. We feel we have a very big majority that supports the agreement. From the other side, I would not like to stop the process," said Mr. Zivli.

A two-month interlude for Israeli parties to campaign could crimp Mr. Rabin's ability to cut a deal with Syria, which is demanding the return of the Golan Heights.

Right-wing sloganeering

against ceding the Golan has had more of an impact on Israel's landscape than the PLO issue.

Farm fields, sides of buildings, car bumpers and balconies throughout the country have signs saying "Peace with the Golan" and "Don't move from the Golan."

Insiders suggest Mr. Rabin has been reluctant to pile too much change on Israelis at once and wants the Golan issue not to be rushed until there are clear indications of public support. Hence, a referendum may become attractive — especially if it heals the rift with Shas.

Mr. Deri, 33, the leading proponent of a referendum, is the protégé of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of the party with a vast following among Sephardi Jews from Middle East and North African countries.

Rabbi Yosef broke with the ultra-religious Ashkenazi parties in backing Labour after the 1992 elections and has made an important religious ruling that "pikuah nefesh," the saving of life, justifies giving up Israeli-held land for peace.

But the Iraqi-born Yosef, 73, is waiving in his support for the government because Mr. Deri was forced to resign as interior minister this week.

Mr. Deri resigned after police charged that he channelled \$250,000 in government funds to the coffers of the Shas Party and for his own personal benefit. Party members claimed that bias against Sephardim was behind the corruption investigations.

A referendum might clear the way for Shas to stay in the coalition, especially because it was a Shas proposal.

Leaders of the opposition Likud bloc are against a referendum, with Benjamin Netanyahu saying it could not be fair because the government would be phrasing the question. Mr. Netanyahu proposed early elections, but they are not expected to succeed in parliament unless Labour lost a referendum.

The Likud head argued that an election now would test not only Israeli support for the agreement, but how negotiations are pursued on subjects like security for Israelis, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinians.

"These questions can be answered only in the new elections, and the public should be able to decide who will carry out the future negotiations," he said on Israel Radio. Elections are scheduled for 1996.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat urges Germany to help rebuild W. Bank, Gaza

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian Yasser Arafat has urged Germany to participate actively in the rebuilding of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat made his call during a brief meeting with German Economics Minister Jürgen Möllemann at his Tunis headquarters on Saturday. The Palestinian news agency Wafa said Arafat also told Mr. Möllemann that he expected Germany to support efforts to build the Palestinian economy in the occupied territories, which have languished under more than 25 years of Israeli occupation. "The German contribution," Mr. Arafat told Mr. Möllemann, "will help cement the foundations of peace." Wafa reported. He also urged Germany to play a role in the European Community's effort to provide aid to the Palestinians during the interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

Clinton calls Mubarak to thank him

CAIRO (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak overnight to thank him for Cairo's contributions to the Middle East peace process. The MENA news agency said Saturday. It said Mr. Clinton thanked Mr. Mubarak for helping resolve "complex problems" in talks between Israelis and Palestinians leading to the signing of a limited autonomy accord for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. The U.S. and Egyptian leaders also reviewed "measures for the upcoming period in a bid to establish a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," Mena said. Egypt's semi-official press in recent days expressed disappointment that the role of Egypt, the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, was "ignored" by the United States, Israel and the Palestinians. On Friday, Israeli President Ezer Weizman sent Mr. Mubarak a message thanking the Egyptian leader for his role in securing the agreement, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in March 1979.

Officer assassinated in Constantine

ALGIERS (AFP) — An army officer was shot dead as he sat in a parked car in Constantine, the daily Liberté reported Saturday. Bououania Tabar, 33, was shot on Friday in the centre of the eastern Algerian city. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the murder, Liberté said.

Israel to establish ties with Cambodia, Mauritius

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is to establish diplomatic relations soon with Cambodia and Mauritius, Israel Radio reported Saturday. A foreign ministry spokesman told AFP, however, that Israel "has not yet been officially notified by those countries of their intention to establish diplomatic relations." Malaysia, Zimbabwe and a number of other countries have said they are considering establishing diplomatic ties with Israel following the signing of an historic agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Palestinian self-rule.

Police arrest pair in possible Kassar plot

MADRID (AP) — Two Lebanese men who entered Spain as tourists may have been plotting the assassination of Syrian arms dealer Monzer Al Kassar, police said Friday. The men had been observed staking out places that Mr. Kassar frequents in southern Spain and were carrying a map marked with the location of Mr. Kassar residence when they were arrested Tuesday near the Madrid airport, police said. Police had trailed Imadeddine Mneimne and Jean Derkhatadorian since their Aug. 30 arrival with a tour from Beirut, Lebanon. Mr. Mneimne's name had surfaced in a police data bank, prompting officials to watch their movements. Mr. Kassar, who owns two valuable homes and several apartments in the southern Mediterranean resort town of Marbella, is free on \$14.8 million bail while officials investigate his alleged role in the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro. Mr. Kassar is also awaiting extradition to Argentina where he is wanted on charges of falsifying documents to obtain Argentine nationality. The Lebanese men are being held pending further investigations, police said.

Arafat to make quick trip to China

BEIJING (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat will make a three-day goodwill visit to China in the coming week, the official Xinhua news agency reported Saturday. Mr. Arafat, whose visit will be Wednesday to Friday, may be seeking financial or other assistance for the PLO after it signed a peace plan with Israel. China already has applauded the deal. China has strong ties with the PLO, being among the first countries to recognise the self-declared Palestinian state and Mr. Arafat's role as president of it. Mr. Arafat has visited China several times before, most recently in 1991.

Nearly all of Turkey hit by erosion

ANKARA (R) — Soil erosion is affecting nearly all of Turkey, scientists said on Saturday. "About 90 per cent of Turkey's total surface area is being eroded," Professor Yucel Caglar of the National Productivity Centre told reporters. "Our people are not conscious of erosion." He said nearly one-third of the 780,000-square-kilometre land area was subject to severe erosion. Mr. Caglar said about one billion tonnes of soil were swept away each year. Other scientists have put the loss from deforestation, wrong farming techniques, wind, floods and rivers at up to 800 million tonnes. Mr. Caglar and four friends, all members of the Research Association of Rural Environment and Forestry, completed a 450-kilometre march from Istanbul to Ankara on Saturday. They organised seminars and meetings in about 10 cities during their two-week trek to draw public attention to the crisis. Mr. Caglar has called for increased government spending to combat the loss, saying "there will not be any soil to be eroded in Turkey in 50 years unless measures are taken."

U.S., Israel pressure Syria, Hawatmeh says

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian leader said Friday the United States and Israel were piling pressure on Syria to silence opposition to a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal but predicted Damascus would not respond.

Nayef Hawatmeh of the Damascus-wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) told a news conference that Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam had told him of the pressure and had pledged support for resistance groups.

"Syria will support our people in their struggle for self-determination and to solve the problem of the refugees because more than 50 per cent of our people are living outside the occupied territories," Mr. Hawatmeh said, referring to assurances he said he had received from Mr. Khaddam.

Mr. Hawatmeh said a DFLP delegation met with Mr. Khaddam on Thursday.

"During our talks... he told us of U.S. and Israeli pressure to restrict Palestinian opposition to the deal," Mr. Hawatmeh said. Mr. Khaddam said Syria's response was that there was opposition in Israel "so why not ask (Israeli Premier Yitzhak) Rabin to restrict opposition there?"

"... Syria will not allow such pressure from the American administration and the Rabin government," Mr. Hawatmeh added.

He did not say who had asked Syria to help restrain Palestinian opposition or when the approaches were made.

U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad twice in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

No advance has been made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks in 11 rounds over almost two years.

Mr. Hawatmeh said he and Mr. Khaddam had "agreed there was no agreement worse than the

(Israeli-PLO) deal and that Syria did not support... an agreement which divided the Arab fronts."

The official newspaper Al Thawra noted on Friday that the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington was cut two days short for the signing ceremony.

"But any partial solution cannot guarantee the future of peace in the region," the newspaper said in an editorial.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat flew to Damascus earlier this month in a bid to win Mr. Assad's support for the deal but failed.

A presidential spokesman said at the time that Mr. Assad told Arafat it was up to the Palestinians and their institutions to decide what suited them.

Mr. Hawatmeh said that during his meeting with Mr. Khaddam "he (Khaddam) stated in clear language that President Assad has told Arafat that Syria is not behind this agreement."

Mr. Hawatmeh said the conclusion of the Israeli-PLO agreement on self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, reached outside the framework of the Washington talks, "has certainly made talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks more difficult and complicated."

He said the agreement "has dealt a fatal blow to the joint Arab stance. After the deal, each Arab country is moving alone. This has strengthened the Israeli attitude and increased the U.S. pressure especially on Syria and Lebanon."

Asked what kind of assurances the DFLP and other groups received from Syria to continue their opposition, Mr. Hawatmeh said Mr. Khaddam had told him that "Syria will support all those democratic and national forces who are continuing their struggle against the Israeli occupation and for the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories."

Photographers fired on by U.S. forces in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — A British photographer for the Associated Press was fired on with stun grenades from a U.S. helicopter Saturday, apparently to block him from photographing the aircraft in action.

Peter Northall and a Somali translator, Mohammed Hussein Jinade, said at least six of the small grenades exploded around them as Mr. Northall was taking pictures of the helicopter flying low to chase crowds from a street market.

The soldiers on the chopper began firing after waving at him to leave the area, Mr. Northall said. The blast of one grenade forced him backward, he said. Another blew out the back window of his nearby van.

"I saw a flash on the ground about two feet in front of me," Mr. Northall said. "That was the one that knocked me backward."

Abdul Hak Senna, a Moroccan photographer for Agence France-Presse, said he also saw small blasts around him as he tried to photograph crowds while helicopters flew overhead. He said he did not see the crew wave him away.

Mr. Northall said the U.S. soldiers aboard the Blackhawk helicopter continued to fire the grenades at him even after he held out his two cameras at arms length to identify himself as a photographer.

The aircraft was only about 30 to 40 metres away so the soldiers should have been able to see him, Mr. Northall said. He added that the soldiers apparently did not want him to take pictures of the helicopter using its downdraft to empty the street, turning over market stalls in the process.

Mr. Jinade and two other Somali employees of the AP were inside the van when the back window was blown out, spraying glass but injuring no one.

Gulf states seen to accept role as donors for Palestinian autonomy

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Wealthy Gulf states, once the main aid donors to Palestinians, will likely resume that role when Israel quiesced land under the historic autonomy pact signed Monday, according to Gulf economists.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have not announced any contributions yet but they are expected to join international aid packages proposed by the United States and World Bank to revive the economy of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and ensure the self-rule agreement will work.

"We find that the main aid donor for the newborn Palestinian entity will inevitably be the Gulf states," said Jassim Al Saadun, a Gulf economist and economic adviser to the Kuwaiti parliament.

"Such an entity will not survive if it is not taken in account that GCC countries are the main donors. A Gulf decision on aid will not be independent but within a regional framework and under international pressure."

The United States has proposed the injection of \$590 million into the Palestinian economy, shattered by 26 years of occupation and the six-year-old uprising. GCC states are supposed to pay between \$100 million and \$200 million while they will be asked to contribute to a \$3 billion package proposed by the World Bank in emergency aid.

The European Community (EC) has already committed itself to a contribution of around \$600 million.

GCC states Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were the biggest financial backers of the PLO until they cut off aid in 1990 for its pro-Israel stand during the Gulf crisis.

More than 80 per cent of the

EC troika seeks support for PLO deal

ATHENS (AFP) — European Community (EC) ministerial troika is to start a three-day visit of Gulf states from Sunday to help promote the Israeli-Palestinian accord and seek financial support, a Foreign Ministry statement said here Saturday.

The troika, the diplomatic arm of the European Community, will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait, the Greek foreign Ministry said.

The European mission comprises ministers or senior officials from Belgium, current holder of the community's rotating presidency, and Denmark and Greece, respectively the past and future presidents.

The mission is to "stress the protagonist role that the EC is to play in the economic and social support of the Palestinians" following the accord signed in Washington last Monday, the Greek statement said.

The Belgian foreign ministry said Friday that the mission would be headed by the Belgian secretary of state for cooperation and development, Erik Derycke.

\$2.5 billion the PLO has received in official Arab aid came from the GCC, which has also provided billions of dollars in private donations and taxes on Gulf-based Palestinians.

The halt of the aid has created a financial crisis in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, once the richest guerrilla group in the

world.

The 29-year-old organisation has been forced to sell part of its assets to finance its survival.

"Regardless of their differences, GCC states are expected to play a major role in financing the new Palestinian entity," Youssef Khalifa, economics professor at the Emirates University, told AFP.

"By doing so, they are not wasting money as they used to do before but they are contributing to peace and prosperity after years of wars and backwardness. I think any country would love to play such a role."

Another well-known Kuwaiti economist, Amer Al Tamimi, said he expected GCC states to pump aid and investment into Gaza and Jericho, where the economy will be controlled by Palestinians and foreign policy and defence by Israel until the final status of the territories is decided later.

"It is in the interest of GCC states that stability is established in the region. This should prompt them to extend assistance and even encourage their private sector to invest in the Palestinian state," he was quoted as saying by the official Kuwaiti News Agency.

"Elections in the coming months could produce a new Palestinian leadership that is more acceptable to the Gulf and this will attract more aid," he added.

Mr. Saadun said he believed Israel would benefit economically more than other parties from peace in the Middle East.

"In the medium term, there might not be real cooperation between the Arab and Israeli capital due to the existing psychological barrier and the feeling of political insecurity," he said.

"But eventually, such a cooperation remains Israel's objective and will succeed whether through selling services or setting up joint investment ventures."

Planners have dreams, but can they control autonomy?

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Walid Dajani snaps open a glossy brochure displaying condominiums stacked like wedding cakes over a marina crammed with yachts.

The brochure is of Spain. But it's his vision of the Gaza Strip, with its poverty erased, swaddled in new affluence.

"Gaza is going to be the pearl of the whole area," he promises.

Mr. Dajani and some 300 other Palestinian technocrats, from offices scattered across East Jerusalem, have laboured for two years on an outline for an autonomous government.

They did not anticipate, however, Monday's historic accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) on the principles of self-rule for Gaza and the West Bank. Suddenly, the pact transformed their intellectual "what-if" exercise into a deadline for running Palestinian affairs.

Sari Nusselbeil, a Bir Zeit University philosophy professor, organised the technical committees in almost 40 subjects after the peace talks opened in Madrid in 1991.

Critics accuse the technical committees of still dreaming, of being too diffuse, too slow. They may be in for a rude shock when the PLO's administrative juggernaut arrives from its current headquarters in Tunis, ready to issue orders after decades in wandering exile.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has declared he would like to be in Jericho within 10 weeks, to start planning for autonomy in the

occupied West Bank town and Gaza. Palestinian self-rule is to spread gradually throughout the occupied territories, with their final status determined within five years.

Education, taxation, tourism, health and — toughest of all — security will become the responsibility of Palestinians.

Now the committee's academic position papers have to be translated into work orders for massive projects like roads, schools, sewage, etc. Faxes whirl to PLO headquarters in Tunis and back around the clock.

"It is the most historic, difficult, frustrating and ambitious period I have ever experienced," said Hassan Abu Libda, deputy director of the committees.

Priorities are just being established.

Mr. Dajani admitted that

building hotels before the refugees have decent housing was unlikely. He does not want tourists "taking pictures of the camps like they were the jungle."

Israeli security forces and PLO fighters are supposed to set aside decades of warfare and cooperate on everything from traffic infractions to suicide bombers.

Israel's army chief of staff Ehud Barak said this week that joint patrols were possible.

Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction also said Thursday it reached agreement with the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas in Gaza to avoid violence over their opposing stands on the peace pact.

But either Hamas or other Islamic groups are likely to continue targeting Israelis, putting PLO police in a bind between their old struggle and respecting the pact.

For PLO opponents, the move towards transforming the PLO-controlled Palestine Liberation Army units from Syria and Jordan into a police force to work with the Israelis is proof that the autonomy plan is tantamount to suicide.

"You can drop the word 'liberation' from Palestine Liberation Army," said Hassan Abdul Jawad, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The PLO hierarchy, which has been undemocratic and inefficient for years, will get the lion's share of all institutions," Mr. Jawad said.

Dr. Nusselbeil admits there will be friction between insiders and outsiders in what is likely to be dubbed the Palestine national authority.

The handover from the Israelis

might not be smooth, either.

Dr. Nusselbeil said the Palestinians plan to base their autonomy institutions in East Jerusalem, as a way of leveraging their way into negotiations on controlling the Arab part of the city.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Uri Pelti said such details remain to be negotiated, but that would seem to be against "the spirit and letter of the agreement."

At Orient House, the old stone hotel on an East Jerusalem side street where the transition teams are based, the technocrats argue that the overarching goal is showing the world that Palestinians are responsible.

"We have the chance to build a country the way we want it," said Mr. Abu Libda. "It is the moment of truth for Palestinians."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Lo Monde est à Vous
18:00	News in French
19:15	Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Step By Step
21:10	The Dream Machine
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Outsider

PRAYER TIMES

04:59	Fajr
06:17	(Sunrise) Duha
12:30	Dhuhr
15:05	'Asr
18:42	Maghrib
20:09	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740	Min./Max. temp.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637885	Amman 21 / 36
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Aqaba 26 / 41
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	Deserts 19 / 39
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Jordan Valley 25 / 40
Terrence Church Tel. 623466	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 37, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi 819213, Dr. Jamil Maraga 776149, Dr. Makhles Halasa 819220, Dr. Jamil Barah 847351, Firas pharmacy 61912, Ferdows pharmacy 778336, Al Asema pharmacy 637055, Nairoukh pharmacy 636272, Al Silem pharmacy 64945, Yacoub pharmacy 637630, Stancian pharmacy 637660, Najib pharmacy 847632.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111, Civil Defence Department 661111, Civil Defence Emergency 63041, Rescue Centre 192, 621111, 637777, Fire Brigade 891228, Blood Bank 775121, Highway Police 843002, Traffic Police 896390, Public Security Department 630321, Hotel Complaints 605800, Price Complaints 661176, Water and Sewerage 897467, Amman Municipality 787111, Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121, Overseas Calls 010230, Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101, Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101, Jordan Television 773111, Radio Jordan 774111, Water Authority 680100, Jordan Electricity Authority 815615, Electric Power Company 636381, RJ Flight Information 08-53200, Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200.

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Husain Medical Centre 813813/32, Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6, Al-Hil Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2, Jafar Amman Maternity 642662, Malhas, J. Amman 631440, Palestine, Stameani 664174, Stameani Hospital 669131, University Hospital 845845, Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9, The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7, Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6, Italian, Al-Musajreen 77101/3, Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26, Army, Marka 891611/15, Queen Alia Hospital 602240/30, Amal Hospital 647155.

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323, Zarqa National Hospital (09)900640, Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732, Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990.

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555, Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775, Ibn Al Nafous Hospital (02)247100.

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Bangkok (RJ)
08:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (RJ)
10:30	Jeddah (RJ)
11:30	Larnaca (RJ)
12:30	Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:30	Beirut (RJ)
14:30	Madrid (RJ)
15:30	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
16:30	New Delhi (RJ)
17:30	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
18:30	Bangkok (RJ)
19:30	Sanaa (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Beirut (RJ)
09:30	Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30	Vicenza (RJ)
12:30	Rome (RJ)
13:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
14:30	Istanbul (RJ)
15:30	Vicenza, Rome (RJ)
16:30	Larnaca (RJ)
17:30	Riyadh (RJ)
18:30	Jeddah (RJ)
19:30	Damascus (RJ)
20:30	New Delhi (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:30	Bangkok (RJ)
24:30	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45	Larnaca (CY)
08:00	Beirut (ME)
12:30	Riyadh (SA)
14:30	Bahrain (GF)
16:30	Moscow (SU)
18:30	Beirut (ME)
20:30	Cairo (MS)
21:30	Beirut (ME)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.

Apple	700/600
Banana	600
Beans (Makassar)	620
Beans	720 / 620
Cabbage	140 / 80
Carrot	400/300
Cauliflower	140 / 70
Cucumbers (large)	230 / 160
Cucumbers (small)	230 / 160
Eggplant	240 / 180
Fig	260 / 100
Grape	800 / 700
Onion (dry)	340/240
Onion (wet)	200 / 160
Pepper (hot)	230 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	230 / 180
Tomato	130 / 90
Watermelon	180/90

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45	Larnaca (CY)
08:00	Beirut (ME)
12:30	Riyadh (SA)
14:30	Bahrain (GF)
16:30	Moscow (SU)
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Pepper (hot)	230 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	230 / 180
Tomato	130 / 90
Watermelon	180/90



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers the Independence Medal of the First Order on Journalist Mohammad Daoudieh (Petra photo)

King eulogises Abdul Rahim Omar

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday paid tribute to the late journalist Abdul Rahim Omar who died last week at the age of 64.

"I hereby recall a dear brother who attended my last meeting with the journalists but who has passed away since, and is no more with us today," said King Hussein during a meeting with the journalists at the Royal Court.

"I remember his long struggle

and his relentless efforts at the literary and political levels," said King Hussein in praise of Mr. Omar.

"My deep condolences to everyone of you for the loss of this writer and may God bless his soul," concluded the King.

Abdul Rahim Omar died after undergoing cardiac surgery in London.

Mr. Omar was regarded by

other writers and friends, as well as his readers, as a "great man and a real poet."

King Hussein Saturday conferred on journalist Mohammad Daoudieh the Jordan Independence Medal of the First Order.

The King presented the medal to Mr. Daoudieh at the Royal Court in recognition of his dedicated services and efforts during his work at the Royal Court.

Government studies structure of joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is studying the structure of joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees to discuss ties between the East and West Banks of the River of Jordan ahead of the implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on autonomy in the occupied territories, official sources said Saturday.

The sources said a decision announced Thursday after a meeting between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and PLO Political Department head Farouk Al Kaddoumi to form a higher joint committee and sub-committees did not necessarily mean that six joint panels set up in July were disbanded.

"It is possible that orientation of the committees will change to a negotiating mode," said a senior official. "All options are under study, but what is more important is a clear basis of understanding

on both sides that coordination and cooperation are beneficial to all."

The six committees, announced on July 10 but formed in August, were entrusted with the task of discussing cooperative in issues related to refugees, economy, border and security, water, the environment and regional security.

Only two of the committees have met so far: the Economic Committees headed by Marwan Dudin, a member of the Jordanian peace negotiating team and a former minister, and the Border and Security Affairs Committee headed by Abdullah Touqan.

Mr. Dudin, who served as minister of occupied territories affairs before the portfolio was abolished in line with Jordan's July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, also heads the committee on refugees.

Munther Haddadin, also a Jordanian negotiator and former head of the Jordan Valley Au-

thority, heads the Water Committees.

The PLO delayed its nomination of the Palestinian side to the committees for over a month. Although no explanations were available, it was believed that the organisation's preoccupations with its secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo, Norway, and the uncertainties surrounding the talks prompted the delay.

Jordan was not a party to the secret talks and was not consulted on the details of the autonomy agreement.

After initial reservations, however, Jordan supported the agreement, expressing hope that it would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and international legitimacy.

The general idea behind the formation of the committees was to crystallise the shape of ties between the two banks against the backdrop of a possible

Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after the Palestinians regain their complete rights.

Although the confederation proposal or other ideas for future ties remain alive, the newfound independent negotiating status of the Palestinians and the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks have brought about the necessity to revamp the committees.

The mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and their autonomy agreement signed this month did away with the need for the joint delegation. Under the joint team formula, a Jordanian delegate attended all bilateral Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and a Palestinian delegate attended Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. Under the new realities, Jordan is studying the complementary between the various committees with a view to safeguarding its national interests, the sources said.

"There are many issues that overlap each other and the main

objective now is to tie them together so that loose ends and duplication of work are eliminated," said the senior source.

According to the source, there is little need to change the Jordanian representatives in the committees.

"All of them could easily be described as the best Jordan has," he said. "They have excellent records and expertise in their various fields of specialisation."

Dates have yet to be set for the committees' next meeting.

Palestinian sources said the PLO may also want to reorient the Palestinian side to the panels.

"The extent of possible changes in the shape of the Palestinian side to the delegations is not clear yet," said a PLO source. "The matter is under study in Tunis."

Other sources said one of the issues that would be taken up during an expected visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Jordan this week is the committees and their tasks.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (centre) Saturday addresses the opening of a six-day workshop on problem solving for better health

Health care professionals begin 6-day workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two workshops on problem solving for better health opened at the University of Jordan Saturday with the participation of 50 doctors and nurses representing various private and public organisations in Jordan.

In the six-day meetings, lecturers from India, the U.S. and Poland, as well as Jordan, will address means of improving primary health services in the

Kingdom.

In an opening address University President Fawzi Gharaibeh said the complicated health problems facing the country require closer cooperation on the part of health workers to offer the public better primary health care at all institutions.

Training of health workers in various medical professions is a necessary practice, and participation in health conferences and

workshops is vital because the meetings and exchange of information help find solutions to basic health problems, said Dr. Gharaibeh.

Director of the university's Educational Centre for the Development of Manpower in the Health Field Munir Gharaibeh, said the Jordanian lecturers at the meetings have acquired sufficient training and prepared for the workshops in the last two years.

Bird enthusiasts to start awareness campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — A newly established Jordanian Committee for wild Bird in Jordan announced Saturday that it will soon embark on a wide-scale public awareness campaign about birds.

Adnan Budeiri, the committee's rapporteur, said the panel will try to disseminate information about the types of birds in the Kingdom, how to provide protection for them as they are a national wealth, as well as how to allow the birds to breed safely.

The committee, formed under the umbrella of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), decided at a recent meeting to work out its main objectives and make them known.

Private school teachers to be paid on equal basis as government colleagues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education insists that private school teachers be paid on equal basis with their counterparts at government schools, according to Ahmad Awad, director of the ministry of education's Private Education in the greater Amman area.

At the start of the 1993-94 scholastic year, some of the private schools forced their teachers to sign contracts which stipulated high salaries, but the majority of these teachers receive far less than the amount agreed to, said Mr. Awad.

For this reason the ministry has set up a committee comprising representatives of the ministry of education, the associations of teachers in private schools and owners of private schools, as well as the Ministry of Labour to control the situation, Mr. Awad explained.

He said that agreement was reached at the committee's meetings to fix a salary of JD 70 a month for teachers with diplomas in education and a minimum of JD 90 for teachers with university degrees.

Under this agreement, private school teachers will receive salaries on an equal level with their colleagues at the government schools, he added.

Unfortunately, and because of the high rate of unemployment among the diploma holders, many of the teachers have been receiving lower salaries, Mr. Awad said, adding that the ministry considers this exploitation.

In addition some of the schools have resorted to raising by 100 per cent the school fees at the start of the present scholastic year, but the majority of these schools raised the fees by 50 to 60 per cent over last year's rates, according to Mr. Awad.

He said private schools were originally established in Jordan as non-profit institutions run by missionaries or charitable organisations, but recently many people

have established private schools solely as investments.

Mr. Awad said the ministry plans to issue new regulations related to fixing school fees to prevent any exploitation of the parents.

He urged all those teachers who discover any mistreatment by his or her private school to report the matter to his office so that he can deal with the problem.

Mr. Awad also demanded stricter control on private schools to force them to abide by ministry regulations.

His views were echoed by Mohammad Qemari, member of the Private School Teachers Association (PSTA) board, who said private schools impose fees on the students at will, with no justification.

Many of the private schools, he continued, lack a healthy educational environment and proper services for teachers and students; and school buses are old

and many of them are in ill repair, charged Mr. Qemari.

He urged the ministry of education to conduct a search campaign and ensure that the schools abide by regulations concerning services and fees.

He said an inspection of the school registers can reveal the rate of salaries and school fees and would show that school classes are often overcrowded, making it difficult for the teachers and to carry out their task.

Subhi Assaf, president of the Owners of Private Schools Association, said that a 10 to 15 per cent annual increase in school fees is enough to cover rising expenses.

He urged private school teachers to refuse to sign contracts offering high salaries unless they are quite sure that the school will honour the commitment. He also appealed to the ministry of education to put an end to such manipulation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends message to Australian governor general

CANBERRA (Petra) — Australia's Governor General Bill Hayden conferred with visiting Speaker of the Jordanian Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, who delivered to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Al Lawzi also delivered another message to Mr. Hayden from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan dealing with cooperation between the two countries in fields of common concern. Mr. Hayden voiced his country's appreciation of King Hussein's efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Al Hassan meets with Tunisian, Egyptian ministers

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan Saturday met in Cairo with the foreign ministers of Tunisia and Egypt to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Al Hassan is in Cairo to take part in the Arab League Council meetings. Earlier, the minister met with Arab League Secretary General Esmar Abdul Meguid to discuss the agenda of the council meeting which is due to start today (Sunday).

Delegation leaves for multilateral talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation left for Washington Saturday to take part in the meeting of a working group on regional economic cooperation within the framework of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace talks. The meetings are due to start at the World Bank on Sept. 20. The delegation is led by Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

Obeldat briefs visiting German youth

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Obeldat Saturday briefed a visiting youth delegation from Germany on Parliamentary life and democracy in Jordan. The Jordanian citizens' participation in the democratic process in the Kingdom takes place through free parliamentary elections which are guaranteed under the Constitution, said Mr. Obeldat. Referring to the peace efforts in the Middle East, Mr. Obeldat said that Jordan was looking forward to a comprehensive and durable peace. With reference to the Palestine question, he said, it constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Unless there was a solution to the Palestine question, there could be no solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Obeldat added. In reply to a question about the impact of the creation of a Palestinian state on Jordan, Mr. Obeldat said, the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is an integrated and unique one, and the creation of a Palestinian state would be a source of joy for Jordan.

Medical conference to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day Jordanian-German joint medical conference is due to open at the Royal Cultural Centre today (Sunday). Specialists from Jordan, Germany, Egypt, Iraq and the United Kingdom are expected to review 64 working papers dealing with orthopaedics, eye surgery, urinary tract surgery and cancer diseases among other topics. The conference has been organised by the Jordanian-German Society for Combating Blindness, the Jordanian Surgeons Society, the Jordanian Medical Association, the Health Ministry and the Royal Medical Services in addition to the University of Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of children's paintings at the British Council.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bicar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhels.
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aouens and Salam Kanaan at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Fannan of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwzeibeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbeia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Omar Al Boudi entitled "Samples of Different Arts" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Citizen Kane" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled: "International Legitimacy: Is it a Cover or a Justification to Use Force?" by Mr. Salim Sweis at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

CONTROLLING PHOSPHATE DUST: An automatic dust control system (choke feeders) at the phosphate exporting jetty at Aqaba Port controls phosphate dust emission with an absorption rate of 90%. Dust emitting from the phosphate exporting jetty at Aqaba Port as a result of loading operations had posed serious threats to human life and the environment in Aqaba city. Acting on the directions of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the ports corporation recently completed the installation of two choke feeders on ship-loaders at the phosphate berth. The system, costing \$500,000, was installed and is operated by port personnel. The old phosphate ship-loader was renovated by port staff to enhance its dust control capacity. These efforts come in line with Aqaba port's plans to control pollution and maintain a clean and healthy environment.



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Jordan in seminal test

SHOULD JORDAN, in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on mutual recognition and autonomy in the occupied territories, postpone parliamentary elections now scheduled for Nov. 8? This is the big question currently being asked and debated, sometimes heatedly, by both Jordanians and Palestinians.

Those who advocate a postponement do so on the premise that the elections campaign will most certainly be dominated by the potentially divisive issue of the agreement and its consequences on Jordan, Palestine and the region as a whole. They contend that the groups opposing the accord — the Islamists, the ultra-nationalists and the Palestinian rejectionists — will combine forces to attract a large number of voters to their side. The targeted voters, many of whom are of Palestinian origin, will most probably be opposed to the agreement given the ambiguity of its terms, but especially its failure to address the problem of the 1948 refugees in Jordan who comprise the majority of Palestinians in the country.

The argument goes like this: If the anti-agreement forces do unite their efforts, they might be able to send a majority of anti-peace deputies to Parliament. Furthermore, some of those who want the elections put off ask how Palestinians, especially those from the West Bank, could be allowed to vote twice, once for Jordan's Parliament and another for the self-government council envisaged in the autonomy deal.

The opponents, particularly though not exclusively those who had strongly opposed last month's electoral change to the one-person one-vote formula, fear that the elections, taking place as they would be against the backdrop of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, might create explosive sensitivities between Jordanians and Palestinians at a time when Jordan is in its greatest need to maintain national unity and cohesion. Some of the opponents even charge that the present Cabinet is a partisan government, and that the present stage requires, instead, a "national unity government" whose resolution to either hold or postpone elections will be acceptable to more people across the board. Those opponents say that the make-up of this government, "which is predominantly East Jordanian," might lead it to concentrate on the dualty of loyalty in the Jordanian body politic, and as such, it should not be entrusted with the task of holding elections.

The proponents of holding the elections on their scheduled date, on the other hand, say any postponement would be a setback to democracy both on the local level and to Jordan's image abroad. They believe that the election season will be the most appropriate opportunity for the peace agreement to be discussed and for Jordanians and Palestinians to begin their long-awaited debate on the relationship between them and on what they want to do with themselves and how they want to shape their future and ties from now on.

This camp strongly believes that Jordanians and Palestinians who accept the Israel-PLO agreement will together say yes to it. And those who oppose it will do so together also. They say this is what democracy is all about and they feel confident that there will be a positive response to the accord in the end. These yes sayers, while insisting that Jordan will choose a "responsible" parliament no matter what the issues at stake are, also maintain that the democratic march cannot be stopped for any reason, regardless of how sensitive or difficult the circumstances around it. They cite the experience of the 1989 elections when the candidates tackled, at an equally critical time for Jordan, issues as big as potentially divisive and sensitive as the autonomy agreement and Jordanian-Palestinian relations — past, present and future. Postponing elections at this juncture, contrary to what the opponents think, will send negative signals to the different political parties, to the Palestinian constituency in Jordan and to the country at large. It will throw the door wide open for post-up feelings by both Jordanians and Palestinians to fester, especially in the absence of the right forum to discuss all outstanding issues frankly and in the open. The Palestinians in particular must not be left to feel any sort of isolation and discrimination by waiting until their final status was resolved and before the elections could be held. In view of these hefty arguments for and against, we believe that Jordan's higher interests are better served by a decision to go ahead with holding the elections on time. It is true the PLO-Israeli agreement has raised more questions than it provided answers, and that some time is needed to try to close the gaps before a final decision is taken by His Majesty. But the fact that the anti-peace camp is very active, and at times acts decisively in its opposition to the peace process, is not in itself a good excuse to halt the natural process towards more democracy and not give the people their rightful chance to have their say on what they choose and decide for themselves.

The proponents of peace and those who believe in the righteousness of the Jordanian-Palestinian cause and unity of purpose should come out of the closet, and they are the silent majority, and explain their position and beliefs loudly and clearly.

Democracy is mainly about public participation in the decisions made on the people's future, and this participation can only take place in a healthy and open atmosphere, away from unjustified fears, patronisation and national taboos. This country, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has already overcome major obstacles facing its progress and development. It has also come a long way in making democracy a way of life for its people. We thus cannot afford, nor must we allow, the process to be retarded or stopped, even under such difficult situations as those we are passing through now. Postponing the elections for a year or two might not threaten our democracy, but a step like this might be thought of, perceived or viewed as regression and weakness on our part. But a more important reason for proceeding with the elections on time is that any compelling consideration to postpone them is easily outweighed by the merits and advantages of doing otherwise.

This country and its people, Jordanians and Palestinians alike, are not only ready for the biggest campaign towards democratic practice in our lifetime. We are also prepared to meet the challenge of national achievement and political maturity head on. There is no question that Jordan is more than capable of, and will fare well in, passing the seminal test.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The economics of the peace agreement

The Palestinian-Israeli interim agreement on Gaza and Jericho first has four annexes: two of them deal with economic aspects. The third annex is a protocol on development and economic programmes and the fourth is a protocol on development plans and concepts for the region. It was confirmed that there are no confidential annexes. The so-called confidential annexes published by some tabloids were fake, as one can easily conclude upon reading them.

The two economic protocols, published on Sept. 1, 1993, by Al Ra'i newspaper, as translated from the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot, are not exactly identical with the official text published by Al Ra'i on Sept. 13, 1993, as supplied by PLO sources in Tunis.

A thorough study of the Israeli version of the economic protocols would make us pause on certain odd provisions:

— Cooperation over water resources regards the rights of the two parties over the water of the West Bank and Gaza only. This is an application of the rule of the strongest: What is mine is mine and what is yours is negotiable!

— There is reference to a free trade area, which means full opening up to trade without customs protection. Free trade areas are of course different from duty free zones. It is very unlikely that the Palestinian infant industry will be able to compete with the large scale and well-established Israeli industry without a measure of protection. A minimum import duty of 30 to 50 per cent is essential not only to protect domestic industry but also to secure revenue for the treasury of the Palestinian self-government.

— The protocol suggests the establishment of Palestinian-Israeli joint companies in the West Bank and Gaza, an indication that Israel would like to have Israeli products labeled "Made in Palestine" to be exported to Jordan and other Arab markets.

— The economic protocol covers cooperation and coordination in the field of information and communication. It is not understood why the media activity should be covered in the economic and developmental protocol.

— The protocol on regional development calls on the two parties to work as one team, with full coordination among themselves towards development of the Middle East region as a whole, including the establishment of regional funds and developmental banks, the exploitation together with Jordan of the Dead Sea resources, the connection of electricity networks, regional cooperation in the field of transporting (Arab) oil, touristic cooperation and complementarities, etc.

The PLO version of the same protocols refers to the common water, not only to West Bank and Gaza water resources. It plays down the free trade area to make it limited on both sides.

It is extremely important to verify the Arabic translation of the agreement and the protocols in order for us to be able to assess them properly. It is true that both the government of Israel and the PLO are under pressure to twist the facts and explanations in order to sell the agreement to hostile opposition, but we need to have a look at the final version which was signed Sept. 13, 1993.

However, what are more striking in the economic protocols are not the areas that were dealt with or covered one way or another, but the areas which were missing altogether.

The agreement on Gaza and Jericho first and the four protocols annexed to it kept silence over the following aspects: local currency and monetary authority, foreign trade and customs duty, direct and indirect taxes, licensing new industries, foreign borrowing, housing and returns absorption, aviation, passports, confiscated lands, laws of return.

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Dangers, hurdles and hope

By Rashid Khalidi

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — For 26 years it was illegal to possess a Palestinian flag in the occupied territories. On Monday, young men waved flags openly as they drove in jubilant, horn-blowing processions through the refugee camps, villages and narrow city streets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

They were reflecting what many Palestinians here feel about the agreement signed in Washington: the misery of two and a half decades of occupation has been so intense that almost any change is welcome.

Some changes that have already taken place, such as mutual recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, were greeted with pleasure by the majority of Palestinians. And the possibility that the accord marks the end of the tide of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and of the historical process of expulsion of the Palestinians from their homeland is also significant.

But the obstacles that still stand in the way of a lasting peace, and of the Palestinian stability and prosperity that would guarantee it, are truly daunting.

For one thing, the framework of the peace process, with its phases and interim phases, is unnecessarily constricted and complicated — a legacy of Israel's Likud government and of conditions imposed by American officials on the Madrid negotiations that led to the new agreement. This formula played a major part in preventing progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track for nearly two years; it was finally jettisoned by the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but the idea of phases is still with us.

The negotiators will have to face not only the complexity of the issues themselves but also the involvement of an American "full partner" whose contribution has so far been less than constructive. In recent months the input of American policymakers has been so one-sided that it exasperated not only Palestinians but even the Israelis themselves.

This was most evident during the May and June rounds of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, when U.S. policymakers intervened, presenting draft documents that were unacceptable to both sides. In both cases the American drafts were less forthcoming to the Palestinians than the Israelis' drafts: a U.S. draft of a "declaration of principles" went beyond the Israelis' proposals on a whole array of crucial issues, including who might ultimately have sovereignty over the territories.

Unless the Clinton administration can learn to play an impartial role — taking as a starting point what the parties themselves say they want instead of what the United States thinks they should want — it will continue to be neither a mediator nor an honest broker, but rather a major obstacle in the path of peace.

And even if all goes well in the many months of painful negotiations to come, the results are bound to be meager: nothing more than the shape of interim arrangements for fewer than half the Palestinian people (those in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) for five years at most.

The really hard issues — the status of Jerusalem, the disposition of Israeli settlements, Palestinian statehood and sovereignty, the issue of refugees, to name just a few — are to be left to "final status" talks. Many Palestinians will not benefit from these arrangements for years, if ever — particularly those in Lebanon and Syria (most of them 1948 refugees and their descen-



dants) — and they have good reason to be dissatisfied. Beyond these problems, still others loom farther down the path to a lasting peace. Two are particularly serious: the dependence of the Palestinian economy on that of Israel, and the ability of the Palestinian interim government to deal with the vast economic and social problems of the people who will gradually come under its control.

The declaration of principles calls for a very high degree of cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian interim government, particularly in the domains of water, energy, finance, investment, industry, communications and transportation. It calls for joint projects in textiles, food, electronics, diamonds and computers.

In principle these are all wonderful ideas. But anyone even vaguely familiar with the Palestinian economy — riddled by well over a quarter century of disinvestment, neglect of the infrastructure and Israeli obstructionism — must be uneasy at the prospect for cooperation between two such unequal partners.

For the 2 million people of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and the tens of thousands displaced from the territories since the 1967 war but now entitled to return, prosperity depends on integration of the Palestinian economy with those of the world and the region.

But at the same time, the Palestinian economy must be fundamentally restructured to decrease its near-total dependence on the Israeli economy, and also to foster greater autonomy and greater balance in its relations with other partners. The details of the accord do not bode well for such autonomy, or for any such balance, particularly since there has been no move so far to negotiate parallel economic agreements with the neighbouring Arab countries and the European Community.

This is not yet an irredeemable flaw. But for Palestinians who have seen the vast power of the Israeli manufacturing and agricultural lobbies to shape their government's economic policies in the occupied territories, extreme caution seems in order.

So, too, with the powerful Palestinian economic interests, many of which have already taken tentative steps toward cooperation with Israeli businesses. Again, in principle this is a wonderful thing. And the active involvement of the major Palestinian banking, construction, investment and accounting

firms, which have contributed so much to creating and sustaining the prosperity of numerous Arab countries, is essential if there is to be a strong Palestinian economy. But those firms and the people who control them have their own interests. These may or may not coincide with the pressing needs of a population that has been deprived and oppressed for more than a generation.

This brings us to the heart of the problem: How well will the new Palestinian interim government balance the competing interests it will represent — those of big business and other parts of society, those of the Palestinians inside Palestine and those outside, those of people displaced since 1967 and those of refugees from 1948, and so forth?

How will it respond to the needs of a devastated economy and society, in the Gaza Strip in particular, for rapid, equitable and sustainable development? At the same time, how will it respond to the people's need for democratic political expression and strong, effective governance?

The answers to these questions, far more than problems of security for Palestinians and Israelis, will determine whether we are on the brink of peace, or of a slide into chaos and ungovernability on the model of Somalia and many other countries in the post-world war era.

Many people fear that security — particularly the potential for violent Palestinian opposition to these agreements — will be the Achilles' heel of the current agreement. But this concern is misplaced. Whether there will be a violent Palestinian backlash against this agreement will not depend on the size and ruthlessness of Palestinian security forces in suppressing disorder and their willingness to cooperate with Israel.

Instead, it will depend mainly on whether the Palestinians can govern themselves democratically; achieve rapid economic growth; create a basic infrastructure; provide jobs, housing, schooling and proper medical care, and raise the abysmal standard of living in the occupied territories, especially the Gaza Strip. Success in these domains would isolate and silence those who would violently disrupt the accords.

But if government is autocratic, partisan and undemocratic; if corruption is rampant, particularly in view of the billions in development funds expected to flow into the area; if narrow private interests are untrammelled in their pursuit of their own advancement; if all of this happens, and if the basic social and economic problems of Palestinian society are not addressed, the interim period will not move smoothly into "final status" talks ending in peace. It will degenerate into something far darker.

There are several sources of hope. One is the deep desire of the Palestinian people for peace and stability after so many decades of upheaval. This will restrain much in the way of possible violent reactions to the accord, although of course not all.

Another is the Palestinians' thirst for democracy and freedom of expression. If all goes well, this will be articulated through a freely elected assembly, a free press and vigorous political parties. Together they will provide a strong check on arbitrary government, making this government a model for the Arab World.

A third reason for hope is the vast reservoir of human resources and institutional skills that the Palestinians have accumulated over the years but have never been able to apply with fully in their own homeland.

A major responsibility rests with the international community to supervise the elections to come, to hold the newly elected government to a high standard and to ensure that funds for economic development are not squandered but are invested in projects of benefit to society as a whole.

The world community must also take care to safeguard the interests of the Palestinian people, not solely protect those of Israel — on which most foreign involvement in Palestinian affairs, especially that of the United States, has focused in the past.

But in the end, the outcome of the Palestinian's leap of faith is mainly up to the Palestinians themselves. Whether they leaped of their own volition or were pushed, they are now in midair. Where they will land — in a prosperous state alongside Israel in federation with Jordan, or in chaos, civil war and renewed occupation — will be determined by nothing so much as the hard choices the Palestinian people and their leaders make in the months and years to come.

The writer directs the Centre for Middle East Studies of the University of Chicago; he advised the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks from October 1991 to last June. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

World peacemakers find new hope for resolving conflicts

By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press

Yasser Arafat shakes hands with Yitzhak Rabin. Nelson Mandela may become South Africa's first black president. U.S. and Russian troops are planning maneuvers — together.

What breakthrough comes next? Around the world, bitter conflicts suddenly appear solvable. Imaginable by the end of the decade: A unified Korea. China and Taiwan making money together. U.S. fast-food restaurants in Hanoi. Cuban exiles returning to Havana.

Miracles are far from guaranteed. Armed conflicts, large and small, are tormenting more than 20 countries. Other nations are grappling with domestic tension. Even the latest accomplishments in the Middle East and South Africa could be undermined by extremists or internal politics.

Yet the world is in a mood to resolve long-standing disputes. Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds says there are indications that peace talks on Northern Ireland might resume. The Israeli-PLO accord "has to give you hope" that Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland can resolve their differences, he said in a newspaper interview.

"That was a very intractable and old, bitter conflict," he said of the Israelis and Palestinians. "If you can find a settlement for that, you can find a settlement anywhere. ... If it can be done there, there's no reason why it can't be done in Ireland."

The Israeli-PLO agreement offers hope to others about resolving conflicts diplomatically, said Joyce Neuf, acting director of the Conflict Resolution Programme at the Carter Centre in Atlanta. The centre was set up by the former U.S. president to help mediate civil wars.

"There is a political will of the international community to resolve conflicts," she said. "The superpowers are not aggravating internal disputes in other countries by taking sides."

Countries also are realizing they can't be locked out of the global economy, she said. Sanctions helped end apartheid in South Africa, Ms. Neuf said, and could spur agreement in the former Yugoslavia and Angola.

But Brian Urquhart, a former high-ranking diplomatic trouble-shooter at the United Nations and an authority on international conflict, said the end of the cold war has brought "some fairly scary situations" by unleashing long-suppressed ethnic and religious divisions.

"There is a climate for peace but this climate has brought a different kind of conflict in many parts of the world," said Mr. Urquhart, now at the Ford Foundation in New York. "The restraints which the cold war put on internal conflicts have been removed. The U.N. was set up for wars between states and what you have at the moment are civil wars. Governments and international organizations must devise

new ways to deal with a very different set of problems."

In the former Yugoslavia, the bloodiest war in Europe since World War II is raging among Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Despite repeated setbacks, international mediators hope the warring parties will soon sign a peace plan partitioning Bosnia that might end the carnage.

Other areas where major developments are possible: — Angola, where about 100,000 people have died since the southern African nation plunged back into war a year ago after an 18-month period of peace. The United Nations, newly active after decades of cold war paralysis, has approved sanctions to pressure Angolan rebels into resuming peace talks with the government to end Africa's bloodiest civil war.

— Haiti, where a U.N. force is planned to help restore exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power and help put the troubled country back on the democratic path.

— Communist North and capitalist South Korea, which signed historic pacts in 1991 aimed at reconciliation and eventual unification. Implementation has stalled over disputes on nuclear inspections.

— Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan, where fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan has claimed at least 15,000 lives in five years. Russia and other outside mediators continue efforts to halt the bloodshed.

— China and Taiwan, which continue to trade ideological barbs. But China has turned some military positions along the Taiwan strait into economic development zones and tourist attractions. Taiwan now allows private travel and some business investment on the mainland.

— Vietnam. Just this week, President Clinton relaxed the U.S. trade embargo, allowing U.S. companies to compete for internationally funded development projects. U.S. businesses are clamouring for Washington to establish normal relations, but the POW-MIA issue stands in the way.

— Cuba. The Clinton administration has no immediate plans to relax the 30-year U.S. trade embargo despite offers of warmer relations from Cuban leader Fidel Castro. But with his economy in a free fall from the loss of Soviet support, Mr. Castro has said he would make it easier for exiles to visit and allow individual private enterprise.

Even a string of breakthroughs might make little dent in the overall number of world conflicts, however.

In its latest yearbook, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute listed major armed conflicts in 30 countries in 1992. The institute defines a major conflict as one incurring more than 1,000 deaths overall.

Most of these conflicts are occurring within countries, rather than between nations.

Should Asia adhere to western human rights standards?

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration, after raising human rights as an obstacle to improved relations with China and Vietnam, is toning down its rhetoric.

The caution responds to a renewed debate over the imposition of western values on Asian cultures.

Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for Asia, said last week that the United States seeks to deal with human rights in China "not in some arrogant fashion of America imposing its values, but reflecting universal obligations under the United Nations Charter and steps that we honestly believe would be in China's interest."

He also said that while human rights should be a consideration in deciding whether Peking should host the 2000 Olympics, the United States would take no position on the selection to be made Sept. 23.

Mr. Lord indicated that human rights is not always the administration's top priority in its relations with non-democratic regimes.

For Vietnam, he said human rights was "not a strict condition" but added that "the warmth and intensity of any relationship that we develop with Vietnam over time will depend in part on their record on human rights."

Key questions in the Asian human rights debate are whether different values may be applied to easterners and westerners; whether social and cultural rights should precede individual rights

and whether democracy and political freedom are necessary to protect human rights.

The issues have been raised before, but they gain a new intensity as the Clinton administration becomes more deeply engaged in Asia.

Singapore Foreign Ministry official Bilahari Kausikan, in the issue of Foreign Policy published Sunday, cited "a general discontent throughout the region with a purely western interpretation of human rights."

Mr. Kausikan accused the United States and European Community nations of sometimes "employing the rhetoric of human rights as a substitute for policies that would require an inconvenient commitment of resources or attention."

Economic considerations have influenced some western human rights pronouncements, Mr. Kausikan said in the journal, which is published by the independent Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He noted that Japan has been more cautious than the United States in pursuing human rights goals, attributing this to Japan's proximity.

"Unlike the West," Mr. Kausikan wrote, "Japan cannot escape the consequences of pressing human rights or forcing the pace of political change in its Asian neighbors."

The West, he said, has a tendency to "transform every social issue into an uncompromising question of 'rights' and place the claims of the individual and special interest over those of society."

Poor water management threatens India's food supply

By Partha S. Banerjee

DALTONGUNJ, India — "I haven't eaten since yesterday. There is no food at home. No water, either," Buchwa Munda, an aboriginal Indian tribesman of indeterminate age, speaks of his destitution in an embarrassed stutter — and only after some prodding. "I found some work this morning, and so there will be some food today. We won't be starving."

At Bairakhera, a tiny hamlet in eastern India's Palamau district, it is 117 degrees in the shade, but Mr. Munda is not overly bothered by the heat. He wears a white scarf over his head as protection against the blistering sun and carries a catapult to hunt birds. Bird meat provides almost the only variation in his family's diet of wheatcakes and salt. "We can't afford any vegetables, but I am often lucky with my catapult," he said. For water, Mr. Munda must walk to Mahuwatan village over a mile away — the well in Bairakhera has almost completely dried up.

A cluster of mud houses on a barren slope, Bairakhera is no Baidoa (Somalia). No one here is dying of starvation. But, like hundreds of other villages in Palamau district of Bihar state and in Kalahandi district of adjoining Orissa state, Bairakhera is showing the first symptoms of famine. With no rain since last August and steadily climbing temperatures, crops have failed for two successive years and wells have dried up. Like Buchwa Munda, hundreds of thousands of people in the dry, eastern belt are waking up every other morning to no food. At least 50 people are reported to have died from starvation this year in the region, most in Kalahandi.

"Palamau and Kalahandi are still far removed from Somalia," said S. S. Mishra, a soil expert from India's Agriculture Ministry. "People have not been reduced to skin and bones. There are no shocking pictures here, but there is no mistaking the ominous signs of famine. The soil is degraded. It could get worse."

Last month, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao flew to Palamau and Kalahandi to see for himself the extent of the drought. In Daltongunj, headquarters of Palamau district, he announced special federal relief assistance of \$60 million. Given India's size and resources, it is unlikely that a famine of African proportions will sweep its arid eastern belt, even if the rains fall again this year. Federal aid and foodgrains

rushed from other parts of the country should keep disaster at bay, at least in the immediate future.

But Indian agricultural experts are worried beyond the immediate future. With a declining foodgrains production, they wonder whether the country will be able to support steadily expanding populations in the context of poor rainfall and recurring droughts. For two decades — since the late 1960s — India has not faced a food shortage, despite a 54-per cent population increase, because of phenomenal agricultural growth. Foodgrains production shot up by 63 per cent between 1970-71 and 1990-91, to 176.2 million tonnes, a figure exceeded only by China, the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. As the spectre of starvation looms over certain districts, growth is reaching a plateau and even threatening to reverse.

As early as 1989, the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute warned that India could face a severe food and water crunch in the decade ahead. Since then, annual government economic surveys have corroborated that prediction, reporting declining agricultural growth. Last year's economic survey indicated a likely fall in foodgrains production by 1.5 per cent. In a country with the

world's largest irrigated area and where the success of the green revolution had ensured good self-sufficiency for two decades, that clearly was unsettling news.

Experts attribute India's declining farm output to land degradation. Deforestation and denuding of critical watersheds have upset the natural water cycle, causing more rain to run off in damaging floods and less water to percolate into the ground to recharge the aquifers. Even areas under irrigation are not doing well. Yields from some irrigated lands are half what agronomists say they could be. And because of the rising costs of maintaining irrigation networks, large sections of land under irrigation are not being farmed.

Worldwatch Institute's Sandra Postel, presenting the 1989 study, said India would need to double its irrigated acreage to ensure self-sufficiency in food in the 1990s. More important, she stressed, the country desperately needs to improve water management and check land degradation. "Water management is the key," agreed agronomist Jayanta Bandopadhyay of the Research Foundation for Science and Ecology, based in Dehra Dun in northern India. "Because of rain run-off and the degraded soil's poor water retention, even high

rainfall areas are now turning barren."

Palamau and Kalahandi are cases in point. The two eastern districts average an annual rainfall of 130 cm, more than many areas in India receive. It is also enough to tide over a poor rainfall year, provided the water does not run off the slopes. Last year in Palamau district, the total precipitation — averaged over 17 collection stations — was 65 cm. "It hasn't rained since August, not a drop," said Pramod Singh, vice president of the Palamau unit of the ruling Congress-I party. "And because the soil can hold no moisture due to surface run-off, the crops failed totally."

In Nawadhi village, three miles from Bairakhera, Sister Valsa, a Roman Catholic nun from the southern state of Kerala runs a mission school and hospital. Over 300 children attend the primary school. The mission has also adopted 100 destitute families, providing them with free meals for a three-month period. "I would say a fifth of my students cannot get to eat regularly at home," said Sister Valsa. "We hold some of them back after school and feed them a second time."

Twelve-year-old Santosh Majhi, one of the school's poorest students, speaks shyly, his eyes averted. "My father is a sharecropper, but there is no work in the farms this year," he said. "Last week, no one at home ate anything for three days in a row, except by brother and I. We ate in school." Majhi's father, like millions of other unemployed sharecroppers in the drought-hit region, depends on the government's food-for-work scheme for subsistence. Excavating a 1-foot deep and 10-foot square tract of earth for roadbuilding fetches 4 kg of wheat. But work under the scheme is not always available.

In Kalahandi and adjoining districts in Orissa state, where droughts have recurred almost every year since the mid-1980s, a large part of the population has migrated to the cities in search of work. In many villages, only the very old and very young remain behind. At least 14 families are known to have sold their children in desperation.

Kumari Bhoi, who sold her 8-year-old daughter to a Brahmin priest for \$16, told the Indian Express newspaper she might be forced to sell her second child if the situation gets worse. Mrs. Bhoi's husband has tuberculosis and is disabled. After press re-

ports publicised her case, the state government advanced her 1,000 rupees (\$33) to launch a small business and provided her husband with a tricycle for the handicapped.

State governments in Bihar and Orissa have sought to downplay and often deny newspaper reports of starvation deaths and the distress sale of children. Bihar's Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav said recently that no one had died of hunger in his state, arguing that the deaths were caused by disease. But, countered Palamau's Congress-I vice president Pramod Singh, "If you get nothing to eat for 10 days, you are bound to fall ill." In 1989, the Orissa government was taken to court for disclaiming a starvation death. The court ruled against the government, ordering the administration to pay 25,000 rupees (over \$830) as compensation to the victim's family.

Tilak Dhari Singh, 35, of Dulsulma village in Palamau district, who lost three children to starvation, described his family's helplessness and desperation as the children wasted away. "When the crops failed, I began a frantic search for work. But work was scarce. There are few government food-for-work projects in the area. We ate maize paste and berries and roots. Most days we ate nothing. The children fell ill. I could not take them to the government hospital. I was too busy looking for work. I could not even afford the bus fare. In the third week of March, they died, one after the other, as we watched helplessly. My wife hasn't spoken since."

"Palamau represents the early version of the ultimate environmental crisis that could befall India," said A. Santosh Mathew, the district's deputy commissioner, or chief administrator. "It's

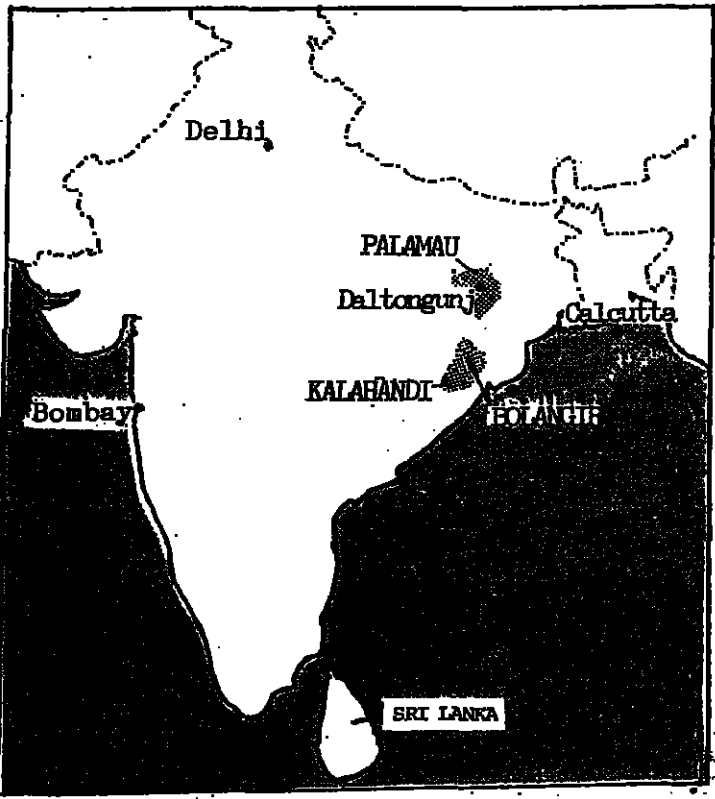
where the mismatch between population growth and resources is among the most glaring." A hilly, forested region, most parts of the district are marginal farming areas, never meant to support large populations. Because of population pressure, more and more people have been pushed to this marginal zone. With deforestation and subsequent surface run-off and erosion of the precious topsoil, the groundwater table has sunk further and the land has become even less productive. The upshot — crop failures and a water crisis whenever the rains are inadequate.

When Prime Minister Rao visited Palamau last month, Mr. Mathew suggested an elaborate proposal to harness and retain rainwater in the soil. Mr. Rao sent a team from the federal Disaster Management Group to study the proposal. "By a system of what are called check dams

and tie ridges — a kind of terracing — the scheme forces a greater percentage of water into the soil rather than over it," explained Mathew. "Essentially, the problem is one of water conservation."

Kamal Kar, a scientist with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, commented: "The problem in this country is mismanagement. Countries with much less rainfall and far worse soil — Israel, for instance — produce bumper crops. We need better water management, better farm management. Right now, it only seems that the droughts are going to get worse every year." Added Mr. Mathew: "What we also need is sustained policy. As governments change, priorities change, and with them, policies. With a little persistent effort, India can get over its drought problem and never fear famine."

— World News Link.



This peasant from eastern India looks for water in a dry river bed; deforestation, soil erosion and lack of rain have brought back the specter of famine (WNL photo).

Government launches '93-'97 plan

(Continued from page 1)

services, lifting the average per capita share of total consumption at constant prices to JD 776 at the end of the period and raising the average per capita income of GDP at constant prices to JD 894 at the end of 1997.

The minister stressed that the five-year plan was not a continuation of the previous plans, although there was a four-year lapse in economic planning from 1989 until 1993 during which an adjustment programme and an amended adjustment programme were drawn to bring about economic growth and monetary stability and eliminate structural imbalances.

"It is a new plan in terms of goals, methodology and operation," he said.

He summarised the most im-

portant aspects of the plan, which was approved by the council of the ministers last week, as:

1) The crystallisation of economic policies instead of concentrating on executing development projects. As such, the new plan focused on developing the investment climate by having included the laws and regulations, the institutional framework and the bases which would widen the private sector role in investment and production.

2) Giving very high consideration to the social development dimension and to address the possible negative impacts of implementing the economic adjustment programme.

3) Giving the necessary long-term consideration to the role of the public sector in organisation and control within the course of upgrading government adminis-

tration to overcome bottlenecks that impeded the private sector from playing its role.

4) Reviewing and updating the plan at the end of each year in light of results and changes on the local scene as well as foreign considerations to maintain the plan operative.

5) The harmonisation of the plan with the goals of the economic adjustment programme as the plan is part of the programme and not a substitute of it.

Dr. Fariz said local savings would increase steadily over the coming years and investments would be tapping these savings for 40 per cent of the needed financing.

The rest of the funding, according to the minister, will come from international tenders and donors as well as foreign investors.

Arafat: Jerusalem will be capital

(Continued from page 1)

peace process," Mr. McCurry said.

Last week, the United States announced its was reopening dialogue with the PLO, after a three-year break.

For now, the contacts are mostly through the U.S. embassy in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters.

Hassan Abdul Rahman, who now represents the PLO in Washington, said his organisation would like to have an embassy in Washington but may have to settle for a lower level of representation.

The PLO needs representation as early as next month to coordinate negotiations on implementing the Israel-PLO accord, he said.

Legal experts say that since the PLO is not a country, it cannot have an embassy.

PLO opponents step up campaign

(Continued from page 1)

Fateh had announced in Tunis that it reached an agreement with Hamas to avoid outbreaks of violence between pro- and anti-peace accord Palestinians in the occupied territories. Hamas officials in Jordan then denied that any agreement had been reached.

Mr. Lidawi described the PLO-Israel accord as "signed by a gang that does not represent the will of the Palestinian people."

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Hamas pledged Saturday to pursue the anti-Israeli uprising as 2,000 supporters marched against the autonomy pact.

The Hamas supporters demonstrated peacefully in the streets of Gaza City for about two hours, waving black flags on mourning and green, red, black and white Palestinian flags bearing inscriptions from the Koran, witnesses said.

They accused the PLO leadership of "burying the Palestinian cause" and shouted slogans calling for the creation of an "Islamic Palestine" from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan Valley.

The estimated 2,000 demonstrators, who came from across

the Gaza Strip, prayed outside the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks before dispersing, the witnesses said.

Their protest came after several days of rejoicing by tens of thousands of Palestinians in the streets of Gaza Strip.

Hamas pledged, meanwhile, in a statement denouncing the accord, to continue the uprising in the occupied territories and attacks on Israelis.

The group said attacks on "Jews and their agents" would continue "throughout all of Palestine."

Three Israeli soldiers strayed into the Hamas demonstration but their jeep was escorted out safely by organisers.

The troops drove out of Gaza's military administration headquarters to find themselves smack in the middle of the protest.

After asking journalists who the demonstrators were and learning their identity, the visibly frightened troops quickly donned their helmets and bullet-proof vests, an AFP reporter said.

Security officials for the march approached them, arms in the air to show they had no weapons,

shouting: "Don't shoot, it's a peaceful demonstration."

They then surrounded the jeep and turned away the demonstrators.

The protesters, from across the Gaza strip, had been instructed not to clash with the Israeli army, Palestinian sources said.

"Bullets will find the soldiers of the occupation, their settlers and agents and knives will be out day or night to rip apart the bodies of Jews and their agents on all the land of Palestine," the Hamas statement said.

It vehemently denounced the deal between Israel and the PLO, saying it accorded legal status to "a mini-state of Jews on Palestinian soil."

Hamas accused the PLO of "abandoning the struggle for national rights" and said it would pursue an Islamic holy war "until Palestine is liberated and a Palestinian Muslim state is established."

The movement called on Palestinian groups "opposed to the policy of compromise and treason" to unite and urged members of Fateh to fight the "shameful capitulation" of their lead-

ership. In Baghdad, a newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's son published a harsh attack Saturday on Mr. Arafat and urged the Iraqi authorities to organise opposition to the Israeli-PLO accord.

The commentator in the daily, Babel, also mooted the possibility of an Iraqi reconciliation with Syria.

The peace deal signed between the PLO and Israel was "an act of submission by Arafat," said the article in the paper, which is run by Oday Saddam Hussein.

"Even if we do not treat him (Arafat) as a traitor, we accuse him of making too many concessions" in the autonomy deal signed in Washington.

"Far from constituting a step of the road to peace, the (accord) is a defeat which will lead to more defeats," according to the commentator, who wrote under a pseudonym.

He accused Mr. Arafat, who had close ties with President Saddam before the PLO-Israeli deal, of signing it in an attempt to "check the rise of Hamas."

King: No decision yet to delay elections

(Continued from page 1)

have caused any brother, and I did not mean to cause such offence ... if it (were against) His Majesty King Fahd or any other of my brothers, then I apologise," King Hussein said.

"But as for the basic attitude (which emanated from the concern for all) we will not apologise and will not go back on this stand under any circumstances," said the King, adding that he was concerned for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and its leadership and Iraq and, at that time, its leadership.

The King asserted that Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the crisis was not based on personal considerations but defined by a concern to protect Arab national interests.

Though saying that many questions remain unanswered about the future of the area in the wake of the PLO-Israel agreement, King Hussein said Jordan could not but support the accord which he described as the first step in a long process towards achieving just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"I was surprised by the accord

in terms of its details and dimensions but finally took a stand that I could not but take. Neither I nor any one among you or in the Arab World can outbid (the Palestinians)," the King said in the 90-minute meeting.

Stressing that people should focus on the positive achievements of the agreement, the King said, "our story (in the Middle East) is that of missed opportunities."

The King said opportunities were lost in the past for two reasons. The first was that the Palestinians wanted to represent themselves and the second was that the majority in the Arab World had tended to go for the easy solutions through outbidding one another and trying to belittle the others.

The King said no danger should be seen in the Palestinian's pursuit for regaining their national rights, adding that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people and it knows what its people want and what the outcome of "this first" step would be.

The King urged the Palestinians to remain united despite

differing points of view that they might have and not to allow anybody to interfere in their internal affairs, supporting one faction against the other.

"We will do our best to reduce the negative consequences and increase positive elements that could lead to the goal of achieving just and comprehensive peace," the King said.

Responding to a question, King Hussein said real peace could not be achieved unless the issue of Jerusalem is solved in a way acceptable to all parties concerned.

King Hussein said the question of Palestinian refugees in Jordan will be discussed with the PLO along with other major issues of mutual concern.

King Hussein said Palestinians who choose to stay in Jordan will continue to receive full citizenship rights and can claim compensation for their rights in the occupied territories.

"The basic thing is that we maintain our integrity as a one national unit and not allow anybody to do harm to this country with the purpose of destroying it or hurting it ...," the King said.

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Report: Massive corruption hobbling Philippine economy

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy S. Martin

ACROSS

- 1 Grandeur
- 5 Refurb
- 8 Lively nest
- 14 Copycat
- 15 Former Yugoslav dictator
- 16 Kind of drum
- 17 Hindu garb
- 18 Print type: abbr.
- 19 More certain
- 20 John Sturges film
- 23 Italian wine desert
- 24 Affirmative vote
- 25 Auxiliary ards
- 28 Thunder god
- 31 Matched collections
- 36 Pure food through a strainer
- 37 Opera solo
- 38 Cage for hawks
- 40 John Sturges film
- 43 Notable period
- 44 Check or light start

- 45 Rule
- 46 Ego
- 48 Solate
- 50 Teases
- 51 Maroon or majors
- 53 P.ayer word
- 54 John Sturges film
- 56 Splanonous
- 63 Megaphone
- 64 Pedestal
- 65 Occupant
- 66 Author Bret
- 67 Calorific in a way
- 68 "... of robots..."
- 69 Weed
- 70 FBI agents

DOWN

- 1 Yesterday
- 2 Confused fish
- 3 Simple
- 4 Monkeys
- 5 Be trugal

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Puzzle Solved:

42. Manifesting
43. Trench
45. Plumed, as a tree
46. Unpleasant
47. Youngling
48. Pungent

49. Slight
50. Slight
51. Slight
52. Slight
53. Slight
54. Slight
55. Slight
56. Slight
57. Slight
58. Slight
59. Slight
60. Slight
61. Slight
62. Slight
63. Slight
64. Slight
65. Slight
66. Slight
67. Slight
68. Slight
69. Slight
70. Slight

Moroccan industry hit by drastic power cuts

RABAT (R) — Moroccan factories are suffering from drastic power cuts caused by two years of drought.

The state utility Office National de l'Electricite (ONE) said Friday water reservoirs were nine-tenths empty and hydro-electric stations, which normally provide nearly a third of Morocco's electricity, were running at 38 per cent of their 687 megawatts capacity.

After the failure of appeals to save energy voluntarily, the ONE has cut supplies by 55 MW at peak periods in Casablanca, where most Moroccan industries are located.

Several hundred factories are affected, notably in the textile, garment, cement, petroleum, printing, computer and building materials sectors. Domestic supplies have not been reduced.

The cuts are to be extended soon to the town of Mohammedia north of Casablanca where light industries surround the Samir oil refinery, the biggest in the country with a capacity of five million tonnes a year.

Africa to set up trade financing bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — African states will create a bank to finance their flagging trade and have secured subscriptions from several Asian and European countries, an adviser to the project said Saturday.

Afrexim Bank will have a capital of \$750 million and could be based either in Cairo or Tunis, said Ismail Mouloud Ould Daddah, who is touring wealthy Gulf Arab states to invite more subscriptions.

The venue of the project will be decided by the general assembly when it holds its first meeting in Abuja in the third week of October. It will also announce the birth of the bank, he told AFP by telephone from Dubai.

Subscriptions have so far exceeded \$500 million but will continue even after the bank is established, he said.

African governments own 35 per cent of the project, while 40 per cent is held by the African private sector and the rest by foreign investors.

Afrexim Bank is the latest in a series of initiatives by the African Development Bank (ADB) to support the economies of African nations, which are reeling under poverty, famine, debt and slow growth, according to Mr. Daddah, former Mauritanian ambassador in Egypt.

"It will finance the internal and external trade of African nations and will operate on a commercial basis," he said. "This will contribute to development as it will ensure financing for imports and exports, which have remained relatively low in the absence of funds."

Apart from Africans, subscribers include Britain, Luxembourg, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, India and other Asian countries, he said, adding that another subscription would come soon from France.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman seek to link stock markets

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Three Gulf Arab states are holding talks on linking their stock markets as part of a plan to create a joint exchange in the region, a Gulf official was quoted on Saturday as saying.

Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman, the only countries in the region with official floors, have been in touch on opening up their markets to each other, said Hassan Al Nisf, Bahrain trade and agriculture undersecretary.

"There are consultations between the three countries to find a mechanism for sharedealing," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej.

"This will allow the shares of each country to be traded in the stock markets of the three countries. The project could constitute a nucleus for a joint stock market in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)."

But Sheikh Nisf said a joint market, stipulated by the GCC's 1982 Economic Agreement, needed time because there were no formal exchanges in the three other members — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, where sharedealing is conducted only through brokers, have said they are planning to establish official markets. In Saudi Arabia, shares are traded through a sophisticated bank network after religious objections forced the closure of its formal market seven years ago.

Despite the absence of a formal market, turnover in Saudi Arabia has remained among the highest in the Middle East due to speculation, the large number of shares available and the high capital of the institutions.

The number of banks and companies trading their shares in Saudi Arabia has steadily increased to reach 78 in 1992 and their capitalisation has hit 14.8 billion from \$10.6 billion in 1988.

Kuwait had the busiest market in the GCC before it was crippled by the 1990 Iraqi invasion. It was started to recover with the registration of around 40 local and Gulf banks and companies but foreigners are still barred.

Bahrain's exchange has 30 banks and firms capitalised at \$4.4 billion while Oman has 75 institutions capitalised at \$1.5 billion.

In the UAE around 22 institutions with capitalisation of \$8.3 billion actively trade their shares.

"For the time being, I can say that the creation of a joint Gulf stock market is unrealistic because the circumstances do not allow that," Zuhair Kaswani, a leading UAE stockbroker, told AFP.

Haulers' strike in India hits industry, rail and shipyards

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Negotiations aimed at ending a three-day-old strike by two million Indian truckers broke up overnight

without agreement, as shortages of food and other supplies worsened nationwide, officials said Saturday.

Chief ministers from 11 of India's 25 states said they would resume the talks with the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) to end the strike, called to back haulers' demands for the scrapping of a steep hike in highway fees.

AIMTC officials said "Friday's talks collapsed because of the hard line taken by the chief ministers of the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Haryana and Gujarat."

"Our strike will continue. The country will be paralysed," warned AIMTC Vice President Ajay Pal Singh of the boycott to press for the scrapping of the 233 per cent hike in haulage fees which became effective Sept. 1.

"Our condition is that the authorities must first scrap the fee," said the leader of the powerful union which spearheaded a six-day strike in August forcing authorities to abolish highway entry taxes in eight states.

The controversial haulage fee replaced the entry taxes imposed by the states on cargo trucks entering their territory.

Newspapers and officials reported widespread shortages of staple cereals saying the scarcities had doubled the price of vegetables and fruits in many parts of the country.

They reported disruptions in the supply of petrol and cooking fuel in cities and towns and said perishable goods were rotting in the farms.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
UNOFFICIAL MARKET QUOTE - SEPTEMBER 18/19/1993									
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE
AMMAN BANK	1,124,780	180.000	180.000	180.000	180.000	180.000	180.000	180.000	180.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	44,336	8.240	8.240	8.240	8.240	8.240	8.240	8.240	8.240
ALBAHJA BANK	1,220	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000	38.000
BAJAL OF JORDAN	41,674	4.310	4.310	4.310	4.310	4.310	4.310	4.310	4.310
MOBILE BANK INVESTMENT BANK	1,220	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	29,814	4.180	4.180	4.180	4.180	4.180	4.180	4.180	4.180
THE JORDANIAN BANK	38,368	6.700	6.700	6.700	6.700	6.700	6.700	6.700	6.700
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	427,741	3.080	3.080	3.080	3.080	3.080	3.080	3.080	3.080
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL BANK	11,940	4.130	4.130	4.130	4.130	4.130	4.130	4.130	4.130
JORDAN TELECOM BANK	1,864	3.990	3.990	3.990	3.990	3.990	3.990	3.990	3.990
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	40,444	4.960	4.960	4.960	4.960	4.960	4.960	4.960	4.960
WESTERN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,410	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	280,643	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	28,360	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	23,508	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900	1.900
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,800	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,780	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	527,702	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,260	1.290	1.290	1.290	1.290	1.290	1.290	1.290	1.290
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,382	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	38,705	6.610	6.610	6.610	6.610	6.610	6.610	6.610	6.610
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	37,644	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,811	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770	1.770
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,998	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260	1.260
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,025	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500	20.500
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62,385	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	60,594	2.618	2.618	2.618	2.618	2.618	2.618	2.618	2.618
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	88,400	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	28,001	10.780	10.780	10.780	10.780	10.780	10.780	10.780	10.780
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	52,740	7.990	7.990	7.990	7.990	7.990	7.990	7.990	7.990
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	52,269	7.010	7.010	7.010	7.010	7.010	7.010	7.010	7.010
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	106,909	11.750	11.750	11.750	11.750	11.750	11.750	11.750	11.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	540,114	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,740	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21,700	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	17,037	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,180	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960	3.960
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	8,880	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770	2.770
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	261,304	17.100	17.100	17.100	17.100	17.100	17.100	17.100	17.100
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	115,385	10.100	10.100	10.100	10.100	10.100	10.100	10.100	10.100
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,340	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	39,914	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,364	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,280	2.660	2.660	2.660	2.660	2.660	2.660	2.660	2.660
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,400	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14,007	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750	7.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21,748	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750	3.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,983	1.620	1.620	1.620	1.620	1.620	1.620	1.620	1.620
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	35,139	5.620	5.620	5.620	5.620	5.620	5.620	5.620	5.620
GRAND TOTAL	5,234,019								

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Currency	New York 16/9/93	New York 17/9/93
Sterling Pound	1.5923	1.5915
Deutsche Mark	1.6038	1.6140
Swiss Franc	1.4005	1.4043
French Franc	5.5940	5.6265
Japanese Yen	104.23	104.48
European Currency Unit	1.1935**	1.1778

Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Date: 17/9/1993					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	5 YRS
U.S. Dollar	2.83	3.06	3.25	3.50	
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.81	5.75	5.75	
Deutsche Mark	6.56	6.47	6.18	5.90	
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.42	4.31	4.12	
French Franc	7.13	7.06	6.70	6.20	
Japanese Yen	2.71	2.56	2.53	2.59	
European Currency Unit	7.72	7.50	7.19	6.62	

Precious Metals					
Date: 17/9/1993					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	351.25	7.00	Silver	4.06	0.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 18/9/1993		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0522	1.0575
Deutsche Mark	0.4257	0.4278
Swiss Franc	0.4892	0.4916
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228
Japanese Yen	0.6580	0.6613
Dutch Guilder	0.3792	0.3811
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies		
Date: 18/9/1993		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8250
Lebanese Lira	0.039315	0.040585
Saudi Riyal	0.1800	0.1850
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2550	2.3350
Qatari Riyal	0.1855	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.8000
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1855	0.1875
Greek Drachma	0.2891	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.3495	1.4245

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Georgians rally to save Sukhumi

SUKHUMI, Georgia (Agencies) — Rival Georgian armies put aside their differences and headed shoulder to shoulder for the Black Sea city of Sukhumi Saturday, after a warning by leader Eduard Shevardnadze that it could fall to Abkhaz rebels.

"I appeal to all men with guns to go to defend Sukhumi," the Georgian leader said in a television interview broadcast late Friday from his temporary base in the beleaguered city.

Mr. Shevardnadze, feeling responsibility for the collapse of a ceasefire whose terms had left Sukhumi vulnerable to the surprise assault, pledged to stay in the city until its fate was decided "even if I am the last one (left here)."

"It is possible they (the rebels) will enter the town soon and there will be the most serious consequences," he said.

The Georgian military's press service in Sukhumi, regional capital of the breakaway Abkhaz province, said street fighting raged in the early hours Saturday in the northern suburbs.

Defence Minister Georgy Karakashvili has personally headed the operation in which the rebels had finally been pushed back.

The new fighting in Abkhazia shattered a July 28 Russian-brokered peace deal to which Mr. Shevardnadze nailed his personal authority and which he rammed through against the wishes of parliament.

Rival militias united across the turbulent country in the face of the Sukhumi crisis and rallied to back Mr. Shevardnadze's appeal for help.

Supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who earlier this week attacked government militia in western Georgia, headed to Sukhumi with their erstwhile enemies.

The so-called "Zviadists" forces reopened a vital rail link to the port of Poti, which they had closed, to enable military equipment and men to get to the Abkhazian front.

It was unclear how the Zviadist and pro-Shevardnadze Mkhedrioni militia would manage to move up the coast to Sukhumi, as the territory was nearly completely controlled by rebels.

Local news agencies said that about two thousand civilian volunteers also had left the capital Tbilisi for Sukhumi by air.

Sukhumi Saturday echoed to the crash of big guns and tanks of Georgian forces fired on Abkhaz rebel positions on the Gumista River, but there was little response from the rebel side after their morning attacks were repulsed.

The military press service said however that intense fighting was continuing around the village of Shroma, set in hills about 15 kilometres north of the city.

As armed volunteers poured in, so refugees — many of whom had returned to their homes dur-

ing the truce — began to stream out of the city on pickup trucks and horses and carts.

It emerged Saturday that Mr. Shevardnadze had failed so far to get the full support from Russia which he regards as the key to the Abkhazian settlement.

Mr. Shevardnadze and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev met Friday near the southern Russian town of Sochi to try and salvage the deal, Abkhazian rebel leader Vladislav Ardzinba failed to show up at the talks.

Mr. Shevardnadze said the talks had been constructive, but the results were disappointing. The introduction of additional peacekeeping force that was required is not taking place.

Mr. Grachev, speaking at a Moscow news conference Saturday, appeared irritated with Mr. Shevardnadze as neither side appeared ready to try to end the conflict.

Russian Television said Moscow cut off power to Abkhazia early Saturday, one day after the Foreign Ministry said sanctions would be imposed if rebels did not withdraw.

Four Russian paratroopers were wounded in fierce fighting overnight around Sukhumi, ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

The Russians were wounded, two of them seriously, when their barracks in the centre of Sukhumi was hit by shells in cross-fire from both sides.

Georgian troops were con-

tinuing to resist though virtually surrounding in the city on the shores of the black sea, three days after the separatists broke a truce in force since the end of July.

The leader of the separatist rebels in Abkhazia called Saturday for a general mobilisation in the region, news agencies reported.

In a television address, Mr. Ardzinba said he had ordered people to take up arms across Abkhazia, where his troops broke a two-month-old ceasefire Thursday to protest Georgian truce violations, Interfax reported.

The Abkhazian Ministry of Defence said its troops continued to maintain a "complete blockade" of Sukhumi, Interfax added.

The United Nations Security Council has demanded that separatist Abkhazian leaders in Georgia end their attack on Sukhumi or face "serious consequences."

In a nonbinding statement Friday, the 15-member Council strongly condemned attacks by Abkhazian forces on Sukhumi and the town of Ochamchira. It called the attacks a "grave violation" of the Sochi ceasefire agreement of July 27, mediated by Russia.

The Council demands the Abkhaz leadership end immediately the hostilities and promptly withdraw all its forces to the Sochi ceasefire lines," it said.

Bosnian Muslims mount attack despite truce

VITEZ, Bosnia (Agencies) — Muslim forces overran a Croat-held village as heavy fighting continued beyond a Saturday noon ceasefire in Bosnia's Lasva River Valley area.

"What's going on appears to be a BiH (Muslim-led Bosnian Army) offensive with infantry and artillery assaults on a number of Croat positions around Vitez," said Captain Cameron Kiggle, a British liaison officer with the U.N. Protection Force.

"It quietened down for about 10 minutes before noon, but they started right back up again."

"There is no ceasefire since noon, that's for sure," a U.N. information officer in the central Bosnian town of Kiseljak told Reuters.

Fighting was reported after midday in the Travnik area, around Vitez, Fojnica and Busovaca, Nova Bila, Gornji Vakuf and Mostar. "They were exchanging anything from small arms to mortar fire," he said.

The ceasefire was agreed by the presidents of Bosnia and Croatia in Geneva and the respective army commanders signed a declaration in Sarajevo Friday committing them to implement the accord.

It has been called ahead of peace talks in Sarajevo Tuesday

between leaders of Bosnia's warring Muslim, Croat and Serb communities.

Huge plumes of smoke rose from fires burning on a ridge three kilometres southeast of Vitez where government troops took the village of Bobas.

Capt. Kiggle said the Bosnian army had pounded the village with mortar and artillery fire before capturing it.

Scattered mortar, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire echoed up and down the Lasva Valley into the afternoon Saturday as Muslim and Croat forces appeared engaged along an extended front.

Croat soldiers in central Bosnia have been warning that hard-core Muslim fighters in this area will not abide by any ceasefire agreement.

"This is not a local flare-up, this is a general attack on the entire region," said Darko Gelic, a liaison officer for the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) in Vitez.

"The Muslim goal is to take the entire Lasva Valley, destroy the HVO and expel the Croats."

The Lasva River runs from the Muslim-held city of Zenica through Croat Vitez and on towards Travnik, which the Mus-

lims also hold.

U.N. sources say 23 truckloads of Muslim fighters were recently seen deploying towards the vicinity of Bobas from the south, part of a general movement of government troops in the Lasva Valley region.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they used the next few days to grab a bit more land," said Capt. Kiggle, referring to the Bosnian army.

HVO troops in the Lasva Valley feel themselves vulnerable to an all-out attack by Muslim forces, a fact visible in the strained faces of Croat soldiers in Vitez Saturday.

Meanwhile, after three days of balloting, the U.N. General Assembly elected eleven lawyers and jurists to serve as judges on the first international war crimes tribunal established since the end of World War II.

Their election Sept. 15-17 is part of a continuing process begun by the Security Council last year in response to reports of atrocities committed during the fighting in the former Yugoslav republics, especially Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Elected on secret ballot from 22 candidates chosen by the council were: "Georges Michel Abi-

Seab of Egypt, Antonio Cassese of Italy, Jules Deschenes of Canada, Adolphus Godwin Karibi-Whyte of Nigeria, Germain Le Foyer de Costi of France, Li Haopei of China, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald of the United States, Elizabeth Odio Benito of Costa Rica, Rustam Sidhwa of Pakistan, Sir Ninian Stephen of Australia and Lal Chand Vohrah of Malaysia.

The new panel of jurists includes two women, a characteristic that human rights groups and many countries, including the United States and Bosnia, wanted to see on the panel. They will each serve a four-year term and will take office in two months.

In pressing for women jurists on the tribunal earlier this year, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said "We must ensure that the voices of the groups most victimised are heard by the tribunal. I refer particularly to the detention and systematic rape of women and girls, often followed by cold-blooded murder. Let the tens of thousands of women and girls who courageously survived the brutal assault of cowards who call themselves soldiers know this: Your dignity survives, as does that of those who died."

Last Russian troops leave Poland

WARSAW (AP) — The last Russian troops based in Poland boarded a train for home Saturday, a day after the two countries offered contrasting assessments of their long presence here.

The 17 soldiers and seven officers left Warsaw before dawn after being seen off by a Defence Ministry official and dozens of journalists. They were expected to reach the border within a couple of hours.

On Friday, Russian Ambassador Yuri Kashlev and Polish President Lech Walesa gave sharply contrasting statements at a farewell ceremony on how the Russians, who first invaded on Sept. 17, 1939 — just over two weeks after the Germans swarmed in from the West — have affected the country.

"Our soldiers are leaving with a clear conscience," Mr. Kashlev said. "Their fathers came here fighting against our common enemy."

Mr. Walesa's retorted: "The day of Sept. 17 has been a painful and tragic date, opening the way that led Poles to prisons and labour camps...through martyrdom, enslavement and humiliation."

But while he recalled the bad feelings associated with the anniversary, he said Poles now can use it to look to the future.

"On Sept. 17, 1939, Poland, fighting against the German invasion, was hit in the back," Mr. Walesa said. "The day of Sept. 17, 1993, ends a certain epoch in our common history. In Polish territory, there are no more foreign troops. Poland's sovereignty is finally confirmed."

Relations between Russia and Poland have improved markedly since the fall of communism. Rus-



The chief of staff of the Russian Army's Northern Group based in Poland, General Bryzgun, waves farewell to spectators Saturday as the last 24 Russian soldiers leave Poland (AFP photo)

sian President Boris Yeltsin made a goodwill visit last month.

But behind-the-scenes bickering for Friday's ceremony showed that plenty of work remains.

Mr. Kashlev represented his country after Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who had planned

to attend, cancelled two days before, citing a kidney problem.

That led Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski to say he would not sign papers finalising the withdrawal because there are still "certain details which demand negotiations."

Yeltsin changes mind, agrees to early presidential elections

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin for the first time Saturday endorsed calls for early presidential elections, backing down on his earlier opposition to such a poll, a presidential spokesman said.

The president agreed to the idea at a meeting in the Kremlin of heads of Russia's constituent regions. The session was convened to speed up the president's efforts to prepare a new Russian constitution which have been blocked by the conservative opposition.

He told them that early presidential elections could be organised "six months after the holding of legislative elections," which the Kremlin has been pushing to be held this autumn, said Anatoly Kravskov, who heads Mr. Yeltsin's press service.

Until now, Mr. Yeltsin has refused the idea of early presidential elections, arguing that a referendum last April 25 on his rule confirmed he still had public support.

Before endorsing the idea, Mr. Yeltsin told the gathering his "first duty was to do everything possible to get the country out of this dangerous situation."

This cannot be done "without renewing the structures and mechanisms of federal power, or forming a new parliament. These two problems are the most urgent," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The president did not however accept the idea that early legisla-

tive and presidential elections be held simultaneously, as his conservative foes have demanded.

Interfax meanwhile, reported that Mr. Yeltsin had issued a decree Saturday formally appointing Yegor Gaidar, the former prime minister and architect of the government's radical economic reform programme, to replace Oleg Lobov as first deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs.

The Presidential Press Service said it had not yet received the text of the decree but noted that "the president intended to appoint" Mr. Gaidar.

The appointment was announced Thursday by Mr. Yeltsin to end the conflict between the conservative Lobov and the liberal finance minister, Boris Fiodorov.

Mr. Gaidar, 37, who spearheaded the liberal economic reforms applied in Russia from January 1992, was dismissed from his job as prime minister last December by the Congress of People's Deputies.

Interfax, quoting "informed sources" said Mr. Lobov could be offered the post of Secretary of the Security Council which has been vacant for several weeks.

Mr. Yeltsin was elected Russia's head of state on June 12, 1991. Legislative elections would normally be held in 1994 and presidential elections in 1995.

The meeting was attended by

about 148 — of the 176 invited — leaders of Russia's 88 regions and republics. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was also present.

Most participants at the meeting endorsed the idea of early legislative and presidential elections, at a six-month interval to "ensure stability in society and the continuity of power," said another Yeltsin spokesman, Viacheslav Kostikov, cited by ITAR-TASS.

The president also created a so-called Federation Council, which will be charged with preparing a new basic law to replace the current Communist-era document, according to Mr. Kostikov.

In view of the conservative attempts to block Mr. Yeltsin's constitutional proposals, the Kremlin said the Federation Council would first study a "small constitution" concerning the ruling federal organs, with relations between the centre and the republics to be added later.

He said a meeting of the Federation Council was set for early October.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gaidar said that Russia's economy is so bad that he had to return to the government.

"I didn't have the moral right to reject the president's proposal, since the economic and financial situation is very hard and political calculations are now simply irrelevant," Mr. Gaidar told the newspaper Izvestia.

Natural birth control 'effective'

LONDON (R) — Natural family planning is an effective method of birth control and the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to artificial contraception will not threaten overpopulation, a medical journal said Friday. The British Medical Journal, in a review of natural family planning, said a World Health Organisation (WHO) study found that 93 per cent of women can recognise body changes which pinpoint when they are most likely to conceive. "Understanding the simple facts about the signs of fertility confers considerable power to couples to control their fertility, for achieving as well as preventing conception," the journal said, adding such knowledge was "useful everywhere, but might be of particular value in the third world." The WHO study found that in the Indian city of Calcutta almost 20,000 women using natural family planning had no more pregnancies per 100 women users yearly. Similar studies in Germany and Britain found failure rates of 0.8 and 2.7, better than condoms and comparable with diaphragms and coils, the journal added.

Wife tortured for 20 years

BAR-LE-DUC, France (AFP) — The 30 villagers of Vaux-La-Grande knew what was going on at the Thiebaut farm, but no one lifted a finger to help Vietnamese Eurasian Georgette Dao Thuy, 41, who was tortured, beaten and starved for close to 20 years, a court heard here. On Friday the prosecution demanded the maximum ten years jail each for Georgette's husband, Jean-Pierre Thiebaut, 46 and his mother Jeanne, 68. Georgette's own son, Thierry, 20 also joined in the torture. "Everybody hit her. I did the same," he said, adding that the farm dogs ate better than his mother. Georgette told how her mother-in-law took Thierry away as soon as he was born and Jean-Pierre said he forced his wife to have herself sterilised after two abortions. Gendarmes found Georgette by chance in a stable one night when a nearby barn went up in flames. Inside were the charred remains of Werner Wagge, the son by the first marriage of Jeanne's late husband, German prisoner-of-war Leo Wagge. Georgette, weighing 35 kilos (77 lbs) had gangrene in one ankle and needed seven months in hospital to recover from her beatings and malnutrition. Werner, 45-year-old half-brother of Jean-Pierre, was also said to have undergone years of cruelty. Jean-Pierre and his mother, who used to beat the pair with a piece of green millinery machine tube they called "hitting spirit", face trial at a later date for the murder of Werner. Said to have been drugged before the barn was fired.

Chefs display Philippines' longest sausage

MANILA (AP) — More than 1,000 chefs and volunteers marched through Manila's business district Saturday to display a one-kilometre (3,300-foot) sausage in hopes of gaining entry into the Guinness Book of World Records. The display of the Longganisa, the local version of the American sausage and the German Frankfurter, was the kickoff event of the annual "Chefs On Parade" which will run Sept. 22-24. A team of more than 50 Filipino and foreign chefs and eight butchers spent more than 10 hours to mix 850 kilos (1,870 pounds) of pork and beef, 45 kilos (99 pounds) of spices, 22 kilos (48 pounds) of garlic, 65 kilos (143 pounds) of sugar into the right consistency before filling a 20-kilogram casing made from pig intestines. The march in the financial district of Makati snarled traffic for at least four hours, as motorists snaked through the kilometre-long line made up of over 1,000 expatriate and local chefs, hotel receptionists, culinary students and volunteers.

Van Gogh's last home opens to public

AUVERS-SUR-OISE, France (AP) — No bigger than a walk-in closet, the third-floor garret where Vincent Van Gogh lived his last 70 days — feverishly painting, drawing and letter-writing — opens to the public. The tiny, unfurnished cubicle looks much the way it did 100 years ago after the artist shot himself in a nearby field and died two days later. "I decided it was better to let the public furnish the room with their own imagination," said Dominique Charles Janssen, who masterminded the 9-million franc (\$1.5 million) renovation of the Auberge Ravoux. The cracked walls bear the traces of a fungus that had been growing for decades.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain may seek Japanese compensation

TOKYO (Agencies) — Britain may ask Japanese companies which benefited from slave labour by British prisoners of war in World War II to pay some form of compensation, senior government officials said Saturday. Speaking on a plane carrying Prime Minister John Major to Tokyo for a four-day visit, the officials said that the question of compensation would be raised "unequivocally" with the Japanese government of Premier Morihiro Hosokawa. The officials acknowledged that a blunt demand for government compensation would almost certainly be met with an equally blunt rejection. Mr. Major arrived in Tokyo Saturday for a four-day visit. He is the first foreign leader to visit since the government of Mr. Hosokawa took power last month. The British leader will hold talks with Mr. Hosokawa Monday. He is also scheduled to meet with other Japanese government and business leaders. Mr. Major is accompanied by a delegation of business leaders, who will seek to boost trade during the visit.

U.S.: N. Korea rejects talks conditions

WASHINGTON (AFP) — North Korea has rejected U.S. conditions for the resumption of talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programme but held out the possibility of further discussion, a White House official said. In a letter to North Korea about 10 days, Assistant Secretary of State would not hold the third round of bilateral talks — scheduled this month — as long as North Korea did not meet U.S. conditions, the official said. Under U.S. conditions for holding the round, North Korea was to resume talks with South Korea and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to monitor its nuclear activities. The United States fears that North Korea may be developing a nuclear weapons programme. Pyongyang's response was "overall fairly negative, but left open the possibility of some continuing discussion on this issue," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Hope fades for lost seamen off Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hope was fading Saturday for 24 Filipino seamen whose cargo ship went down off Hong Kong in the wake of severe tropical storm Becky a day earlier, rescue officials said. Two search flights failed to turn up any sign of the crew of the Anderson, a 6,600-tonne bulk carrier that was headed for Guangzhou, China, with a cargo of iron from Russia when it went down late Friday southwest of Hong Kong. The sole survivor was recovering on a rescue ship headed for Pusan, South Korea, the colony's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre said. Also still missing were 15 people from one of two fishing vessels lost when Becky lashed the South China coast with gale force winds, causing widespread flooding and property damage in Hong Kong and Macau, the centre said.

Akihito ends European tour

BONN (AFP) Emperor Akihito of Japan and the Empress Michiko Saturday wound up a European tour that was strong on cultural content but also marked Japan's more active international role in the post-cold war era. The imperial couple were to leave Munich for home Saturday evening at the end of a six-day visit to Germany preceded by visits to Italy and Belgium. Their trip lasted over two weeks in all.

Cuban Air Force captain defects

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — A Cuban Air Force captain defected Friday in a MiG jet that he landed at Key West Naval Air Station, sparking a dispute among military officials about whether the flight had been tracked. The MiG-21 landed without incident at the base in Key West, 145 kilometres from the Cuban coast. Cmdr. Drew Malcomb, deputy director of public affairs for the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) and U.S. Space Command in Colorado, Colo., said the plane evaded radar detection. "This aircraft, flying at the altitude that he did, at the speed that he did, is considered sort of a pop-up, and was not detected by the hardware," he said. It was spotted at an altitude of 50 feet (15 metres) travelling more than 500 miles per hour (800 kph), Cmdr. Malcomb said. The Soviet-made MiG was on a training flight and wasn't carrying any missiles, said Marine Capt. Tim Hoyle at the Atlantic Fleet Command in Norfolk. Capt. Smith said the single-seat jet was equipped with a 22 millimetre machine gun. Capt. Enio Ravelo Rodriguez, 32, asked for political asylum and was turned over to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service within three hours, a common first step for Cubans allowed to enter the United States under relaxed immigration laws. He remained in custody late Friday.

China urged to cancel nuclear test

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton urged China Friday to cancel an underground nuclear test as State Department officials wrapped up talks with other governments aimed at getting them to put pressure on Peking. "I am still very hopeful that the Chinese will not do that, and I have asked other nations that have relations with China to also encourage them not to do it," Mr. Clinton said. "The Chinese are finding their strength today...in economic growth," the president said at a press conference. "And I would hope that the Chinese would see their future in terms of their economic strength and step away from this." China said Saturday it maintained a "very restrained attitude" toward nuclear tests but did not deny U.S. allegations it was planning one. In response to reporters' questions about the U.S. claims, the Foreign Ministry issued a one-sentence statement Saturday that said: "It is known to all that China has all along taken a very restrained attitude towards the nuclear test issue."

Angolan rebels shell Cuito

SAO TOME (R) — Thousands of shells rained down on the besieged Angolan city of Cuito Saturday, killing dozens of people in one of the heaviest rebel bombardments so far, Angola Radio said. The radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, claimed UNITA had rained some 12,000 shells on the highlands dry in the last 24 hours. No independent confirmation was immediately available. Up to 20,000 people are believed to have died in Cuito from wounds, disease and starvation since UNITA encircled the city in January. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) revived Angola's 18-year-old civil war a year ago after losing U.N.-supervised elections to the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). UNITA has said it will observe a unilateral ceasefire from Monday. The MPLA has accused the rebels of redoubling efforts to take Cuito ahead of that deadline.

Cambodian lawmakers give king power to dissolve National Assembly

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Cambodia's king Saturday was given powers to dissolve the elected National Assembly under changes made to the draft constitution.

The decision, during the fourth day of debate on the charter, increases the king's already significant official powers despite stating that he "reigns but does not govern."

The position of king is being tailor-made for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the 70-year-old interim head of state who ruled Cambodia with an iron hand for decades before being ousted in a 1970 coup.

The pertinent article says the king can dissolve the assembly on the advice of the prime minister and the president of the assembly. It also says the power can only be exercised if the assembly already has dissolved the government twice in the same year.

But, like other provisions concerning the king, such as those giving him powers over the executive and the judiciary branches, this one leaves the final decision in the king's hands. And it appears vague enough to be open to various interpretations. Assembly members and pro-democracy activists have secretly expressed concerns over whether Prince Sihanouk will abuse the powers the constitution will provide him as king as he did during his previous administration.

It is apparent from both public and private statements Prince Sihanouk has made in the past few weeks from China, where he

is seeking medical treatment for a rectal tumor, that he is dictating at least some of the assembly's decisions.

But Prince Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, co-chairman during the interim period while the constitution is being drafted, brushed off such concerns.

"My father, he does not ask for anything," he said. "The poor man, he is in Peking. His health is not very well. So he does not ask for anything."

Prince Ranariddh also insisted that the provision concerning the dissolution of the assembly puts the power in the hands of the government, instead of the king.

"The king should not have any initiative to dissolve the National Assembly," Prince Ranariddh said. "If the government is dismissed by the National Assembly, the prime minister will have the right to ask the king...to dissolve the National Assembly."

He said the provision was only to balance the powers of the assembly, which also has the right to dissolve the government.

"This would keep the parliament from overthrowing the government all the time," said Ek Serewath, deputy information minister. "It's a check and balance of power."

He said if the assembly, often referred to as the parliament here, was dissolved it would have to be replaced in a general election. If the government was dissolved, it would be up to the president of the assembly and

that person's two deputies to replace the prime minister, he said.

The assembly, elected in U.N.-organised elections this past May, is to formally take charge after adopting the entire 140-article constitution, probably next week. That will mark the end of the 18-month U.N. peacekeeping operation, the world body's largest and most expensive ever.

Meanwhile, Khmer Rouge defectors interviewed at Dey Eth military re-training camp near Phnom Penh said Saturday that they realised Vietnamese troops no longer occupy Cambodia and that there was nothing left to fight for.

"We were deceived," said 37-year-old private Eak, who defected with most of his unit from central Kompong Thom province last week.

"I used to believe that Cambodia is full of Vietnamese because I never came to the government-controlled areas before," he said. "In their propaganda, our commanders said (three neighbouring provinces) are full of Vietnamese, but when we came here we didn't see any. We were cheated."

The first 268 of the 449 defectors from Division 616 were moved to this mud-soaked camp an hour's drive south of the Cambodian capital, and were outfitted in new Cambodian Armed Forces uniforms, belts and sandals as part of their reintegration and re-education training.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Olympic flame to be lit in Stone-Age fashion

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AFP) — Lillehammer will go back to the Stone Age to light the Olympic flame for the Winter Games it will host next February. Competitions are to be held in Norway from next month to find out who can light a flame fastest by rubbing two sticks together, the Lillehammer Olympics Organising Committee (LOOC) announced Friday. On November 27, the winner will rub his sticks together to make a fire in the fireplace at the home of the founder of Telemark Skiing, Sondre Norheim, in Morgedal in Telemark. For 75 days, the torch will then tour the mountains and fjords of Norway and even go out to a North Sea oil platform. It will meet up with the Olympic flame from Greece in Oslo February 5. The opening ceremony will be in Lillehammer February 12.

Sampras falls to Agassi

PHOENIX (AP) — Pete Sampras, the first American to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year since John McEnroe in 1984, was no match for Andre Agassi. Facing each other in a Thursday night exhibition, Agassi routed the new U.S. Open champ 6-3, 6-4 in just 69 minutes. Sampras took over the No. 1 ranking in the world after winning the U.S. Open title Sunday. Agassi had lost in the first round, dropping his ATP tour ranking to No. 20. But Agassi came out with a crisp serve and was the sharper of the two players Thursday night.

Drug testing to begin at Davis Cup series

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Drug testing will be introduced at all Davis Cup series beginning in 1994, the International Tennis Federation announced Friday after its week-long conference. The ITF also formalized plans to run the Federation Cup as a year-long playoff similar to the Davis Cup, its male counterpart as an international competition among countries, beginning in 1995. In preparation for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, the membership also approved the recommendation that men's singles and doubles matches be best-of-3 sets except for the finals, which will remain best-of-5. The ITF also abolished the traditional 10-minute break after the third set of best-of-5 Davis Cup matches.

Cuban teams denied entry to U.S.

NEW YORK (AFP) — Two Cuban volleyball teams will be barred from the United States for world championship qualifying matches next week because they applied for their visas too late, officials said Friday. The Cubans were to be among seven nations in the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NORCECA) Zone championships for women in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and for men in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tournaments, scheduled for September 20-25, were switched last month from Monterrey, Mexico, for financial reasons. The switch may have caught out the Cubans. The U.S. Volleyball Association said they had been told the Cubans applied for visas on September 1, and that it usually takes 21 days for a visa to be approved.

Maradona not summoned to national team

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The list of players summoned to play for the Argentine national soccer team against Australia for a berth in the 1994 World Cup did not include star midfielder Diego Maradona. Maradona, who returned recently to professional soccer in a local team, may be summoned later, an Argentine Soccer Association spokesman said. The list, released Friday, includes defenders Carlos MacCallister and Victor Sotomayor, who did not play in the recent qualifying round won by Colombia. Argentina was the favorite to win the round, but was trounced twice by Colombia, 2-1 and 5-0. Argentina will play its away game with Australia October 31.

Timman, Karpov draw 7th FIDE chess game

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman and Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov agreed a draw after 21 moves in the seventh game of the FIDE World Chess championship Friday. Karpov now leads the match by four points to three. The next game is in Amsterdam with Karpov having the white pieces. The winner in the 24-game match will be the first to reach 12½ points.

Burruchaga set for Independiente move

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Jorge Burruchaga is set to return to his native Argentina with Independiente, pending the outcome of the Marseille-Valenciennes match-rigging scandal. Burruchaga, charged with corruption over attempts to buy the May 20 clash between the two sides, is about to seal a one-year contract with his former club. But the Buenos Aires club President Horacio Sardo made it clear French justice must take its course before Burruchaga is taken to the board. A meeting of the French Federation takes place Sept. 21, and action on the match-rigging scandal is scheduled to be announced the next day.



1992 world champion Carlos Sainz of Spain is airborne over a bump during the 1st stage of the Australian Rally (AFP photo)

New Zealander dies on first day of rally

PERTH, (AP) — New Zealand co-driver Roger Freeth died of injuries from a crash on the opening day of Rally Australia near Perth Saturday.

Freeth, 40, and his driver Possum Bourne, also from New Zealand, rolled their Subaru Legacy into a pine plantation midway through the third of the event's 34 special stages.

Freeth was airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital but died in the operating room. Bourne was also admitted to hospital but Rally Australia official Garry Connolly said Bourne's condition was stable.

It was the first fatality in Rally Australia's four-year history and was the first death in a World Rally Championship event since 1986.

World rallying's governing body, FISA, will launch an inquiry into the incident, officials said.

Finland's Juha Kankkunen continued his profitable association with the race and strengthened his grip on the world drivers' crown of the tragic opening day.

Kankkunen, who has won three of the four rally Australia titles, recorded the fastest time in all of the nine special stages held Saturday. The Toyota Celica driver finished the opening leg with a 1 minute, 17-second lead over Scotsman Colin McRae in a Subaru.

The same stage that claimed Freeth's life also forced current world champion Carlos Sainz to withdraw from the rally. The Spaniard spun his Lancia into a bush and was unable to complete the stage.

Another prominent rally figure, Frenchman Didier Auriol, was also a casualty on the opening day. Auriol, who needed a strong performance to remain in touch of current Drivers' Championship leader Kankkunen, damaged an oil sump on his Toyota during the sixth special stage and was forced to retire.

Kankkunen can extend his 20-point advantage with a steady performance over the next three days.

A win by either Auriol or Kankkunen would give Toyota an unassailable lead with two rounds of the World Championship to be held.

Frenchman Francois Delecour was Ford's leading entry in third position Saturday, more than two minutes behind Kankkunen.

Connolly said it was still uncertain what injuries caused Freeth's death, which occurred near York, 80 kilometres east of Perth.

"From what eyewitnesses have described the co-drivers' side of the car took most of the impact of the collision," said Connolly.

"That part of special stage three has two jumps and it seems the nose of the car ended up crashing straight into the ground when it came down."

"From that point the car rolled off the road. We are unsure whether the car hit a tree but the stage is through forests and pine plantations."

Connolly said the event's medical helicopter, which included a doctor, was on the scene within five minutes.

'China will definitely go to Atlanta'

MONTE CARLO (R) — China gave a clear undertaking Saturday that it would attend the 1996 Atlanta Olympics regardless of whether Beijing wins Thursday's vote the 2000 Games.

China's top Olympic official, he Zhenliang, made the commitment to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), IOC Director-General Francois Carrard told a news conference.

The announcement ended an apparent threat that China might not go to Atlanta if it did not win the 2000 Olympic vote.

He Zhenliang had ruled out a boycott of the 1996 Summer Games Friday but had refused at a

news conference to say that Chinese athletes would actually go to Atlanta.

Zhang Baifa, chief executive of Beijing's bid committee, said Friday a boycott was possible because of political interference by the U.S. House of Representatives, which passed a resolution in July opposing Beijing on human rights grounds.

Zhang told the official Xinhua News Agency Saturday that he had been misquoted. Beijing is competing with Sydney, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul to host the 2000 Games.

Christie confirms supremacy

FUKUOKA, Japan (AFP) — Olympic and world champion Linford Christie confirmed his 100m supremacy Saturday, powering past American rivals Andre Cason and Dennis Mitchell at the Fukuoka track and field meet.

Mitchell, the Olympic and the world championship bronze medalist, made a fine start and led the field in the first half of the race.

But 33-year-old Christie overtook in the last 30 metres, crossing the finishing line in 10.06sec.

Cason, the runner-up at Stuttgart, again came in second in 10.14, and Mitchell third in 10.24.

Eight world record holders, led by Sergey Bubka of Ukraine and Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria, duly won their events respectively, but nobody managed to set a new one.

Bubka, who set the world outdoor pole vault record of 6.13m a year ago in Tokyo, challenged 6.14m after securing top place with 5.80, beating Scott Huffman of the United States and Rodion Gataulin of Russia.

He nearly broke the record at his second jump, but his thigh nudged the bar at the last moment, disappointing spectators at the Hakatanomori Athletic Stadium, western Japan.

Kostadinova, the winner in the women's high jump with the season's best record of 2.05m, also failed 2.10m, one centimetre



Britain's Linford Christie after winning the men's 100m sprint in Stuttgart (AFP photo)

above her own world record set in 1987, but gained some consolation when she was awarded as the most valuable athlete of the event.

Britain's hurdling world record breaker, Sally Gunnell, in the women's 400m and Colin Jackson in the men's 110m, both coasted

to easy victories.

Other star performers were world 400m record holder Butch Reynolds of the United States, compatriot and long jump holder Mike Powell, Javier Sotomayor of Cuba who holds the high jump record, and javelin record holder Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic.

Torino, Inter face tough tests in 5th round

MILAN (AP) — It's only the fifth round, but Torino is riding high on its wave. Without its much-ballyhooed Uruguayan, Torino is 3-1-0, on top of the Italian First Division and not even worried about playing Parma Sunday.

"We have made wonders so far, with a shuffled team, and we want to keep it on. However a defeat would be no drama," Torino coach Emiliano Mondonico said.

Since 1949, when a plane crash wiped out the Torino team and marked the last of its four consecutive league titles, the club has won only the Italian League crown — 1976.

Climbing to the top of serie A without Enzo Francescoli and Carlos Aguilera, still on duty with their national team in World Cup qualifying, has some people thinking time again.

Conversely, pre-season favourite Internazionale is 3-1-1, and wants to avoid falling further

behind cross-town rival AC Milan this early in the season. It travels to Rome to face Lazio.

In other games Sunday, Cremonese is in Bergamo, to play Atalanta; Cagliari is at Foggia; Napoli at Genoa; Reggiana is in Turin to play Juventus; AC Milan hosts as Roma; Sampdoria is at Udinese, and Piacenza faces Lecce.

Besides Francescoli and Aguilera, Torino also may be without Italian striker Andrea Silenzi, who has two goals already. Silenzi is sidelined with an ankle injury suffered in its 2-0 victory over Lillostrem Wednesday in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Parma (3-0-1) will have a full-strength 11, including forward Faustino Asprilla and Swede Tomas Brodin, besides being one of Colombia's heroes in its successful World Cup qualification campaign. Asprilla had two goals in two minutes in a European cup winners cup match Tuesday.

Inter has had problems integrating Dutch newcomers Dennis

Bergkamp and Wim Jonk into its system. But that may be ending, Bergkamp, who sat the first half of last week's surprising loss to Cagliari, scored three goals in a UEFA Cup match against Rapid Bucharest Wednesday night.

He will team in front with Jonk and Italian striker Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci.

"It's time that all players show to have understood the way we must play. We can't afford other false steps," said Inter's coach Osvaldo Bagnoli.

Palestine set for Olympic recognition

MONACO (AFP) — Palestine is to become a provisional member of the International Olympic Committee, IOC Director-General Francois Carrard said Saturday, clearing the way for Palestinian athletes at the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

He doubted whether any Palestinians from Gaza or Jericho would take part in next February's Lillehammer Winter Games in Norway but expected to see them in Atlanta in three years' time.

The executive board will ask the IOC session here to ratify Palestine's membership next week, a board proposal has never been turned down.

"The athletes of Palestine will be participating, if they so wish, at all the next Olympic Games," Carrard said. "This has to be ratified by the session."

The Palestinians have been pariahs since the 1972 Olympics in Munich when a group of Black September Guerrillas broke into the Olympic village, seized Israeli athletes and eventually killed 11 of them and one policeman.

Five of the guerrillas died when they attempted to take their hostages out of the country.

Carrard said the board's decision had taken account of Israeli feelings.

"It was a very black moment for the Olympics in 1972 but we are in 1993. The people (in charge of Palestine sport) can certainly not be held responsible for what took place 20 years ago," he said.

"This is a time for peace, this is a time for youth, for the Olympic movement to open its arms and its doors with respect for all other National Olympic Committees and particularly for the NOC of Israel."

He said he saw no anomaly between athletes from Gaza or Jericho competing in Atlanta and none from Nabulus — which is outside this week's Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation agreement.

He did not rule out a token representation — of officials — at Lillehammer.

Palestine leader Yasser Arafat's handshake with Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawns in Washington on Monday had changed the situation, he said.

Palestine had applied for membership in the past but it had not been turned down because it had no sovereign territory.

"More than 100 states had already recognised Palestine before the PLO-Israeli agreement," he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& YAMAM HIRSH
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TEST YOUR PLAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
K 8 5 3
Q 5
K J 8 6 3
J 9 8
J 10 9
J 10 9
Q 8 5 4
Q 2

EAST
A 7 6 4 2
A 7 6
A 10

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2+ Pass
2 Pass 4 Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of

Are you proud of your skill as a declarer? If so, cover up the East-West hands and decide how you would play six hearts after the lead of the diamond jack.

It is unlikely that West would lead away from the king of diamonds against a slam, but it costs nothing to try the queen from dummy. As expected, East produces the king

and your ace wins. You try the ace and king of hearts, and can count home if the trumps break evenly. However, the fates are not kind. How would you play the hand if West shows out on the second heart? What if East is the defender with heart shortages?

Since you must get rid of three diamonds from hand, you need to find the player with the long trumps holding four clubs as well. If East has the length, only one lie of the cards can salvage the contract. West's clubs must be specifically Q 10. The A K will pick up those two cards, setting up a 4-8 in dummy. You discard two diamonds on those cards, and your last diamond goes away on the fifth club. East can ruff that trick, but the defenders get nothing but their high trump.

If West has three trumps, your chances are better: any four clubs in that hand will suit the queen will land the slam. Lead a club from dummy and finesse the ten. Cash the ace, dropping the queen, cross to the king of spades and run clubs. Again, the defenders can get only one trump trick. Congratulations on your skillful declarer play.

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Jordan expects World Bank to study impact of self-rule

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is calling for the formation of a task force under the World Bank umbrella to assess the economic impact of Palestinian autonomy in the region's countries, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources said Jordan expects the World Bank to endorse the proposal at a meeting in Washington Monday, where a World Bank-prepared report on economic development for the occupied territories will be formally released and discussed.

One of the sources said Jordan had "some reservations" on the report but that these were "adequately addressed through diplomatic channels" ahead of the meeting, which will bring together Israel, Arab states, the Palestinians and donor countries.

"We expect that the Jordanian concerns will be formally addressed in a document accompanying the World Bank report," said the source.

"We are proposing the establishment of a panel entrusted with the task of assessing the economic impact of Palestinian autonomy on the countries in the region," said the source. "The study should consider the repercussions as well as the positive effects."

According to the source, the World Bank has responded positively to the Jordanian proposal, and "we hope this will be part of the decisions adopted in Washington."

Jordan, burdened with \$6.5 billion in foreign debts and continuing to strain under the severe economic blow that the Gulf crisis dealt to the Kingdom, is implementing an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic restructuring programme.

The World Bank is highly appreciative of the Kingdom's adherence to the programme, which could be set back if Jordan were to suffer any serious economic losses as a result of the implementation of the autonomy accord.

One of the issues Jordan hopes that the Washington meeting

would tackle is coordination of channels through which the development programme for the occupied territories to support the Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Jordan is aware that it will find itself competing with Israel, in the short, medium and long terms," said another source who is close to the government.

"It will be ironic that Israel, by virtue of its stranglehold on the Palestinians, monopolises the rebuilding of Palestinian economy and infrastructure," said the source.

Palestinian sources said the Palestinians also had reservations over the World Bank report, mainly because it implied Israel might assume a leading role in rebuilding the West Bank and Gaza, the territories it occupied and whose infrastructure and economy were destroyed over the past 25 years.

"Let us say it clearly," said a Palestinian source. "It will be like rewarding aggression. Why should the Palestinians be forced into a corner where they have no choice but to turn to Israel? We would like to exercise free options."

Within the context of the World Bank plan, which envisages a total spending \$4.3 billion to set up power, water, health and education projects in the occupied territories, Jordan could offer most of what the Palestinians need at cheaper costs than what Israel can offer, officials say.

"It is important that certain principles and groundrules are set from the very beginning," said Jordanian official. "For our part, Jordan has to move quickly to define the grey areas in the economic context of the autonomy agreement," he said, underlining that "the autonomy agreement is supposed to take effect on Oct. 13. We have very little time."

Analysts and officials say that while Jordan was not considering the autonomy agreement as a vehicle to advance its economic objectives, the Kingdom had

genuine economic concerns and claims which should be addressed.

Apart from the physical control of the land, one of the key cards that Israel wields in dealing with the Palestinians is its monopoly over essential services such as water and energy.

The occupied territories depend solely on Israeli utilities for these two vital services. In addition, the only flour mill of the size that could cater to the Palestinian needs is located in Haifa.

"It will be some time before the Palestinians will have their own water and energy networks under the economic development programme," noted the Palestinian source. "We are aware that Israel could very well link the two services in the interim to a big chunk of the development funds."

According to the Jordanian sources, the Palestinians could actually strengthen their negotiating position with the Israelis if they had Jordanian-offered options.

Energy experts estimate the initial annual energy needs of the Palestinians at between 100 million megawatts and 150 million megawatts and say that Jordan could easily meet this requirement.

Jordan has an installed capacity of over 1,000 megawatts, and it produces up to 700 million megawatts annually. It can easily spare the overproduction with the Palestinians if a grid connection could be made between South Shuneh on the East Bank and Jericho on the West Bank.

Likewise, Jordan could meet a lot of the construction requirements of the Palestinians. It has spare capacities to produce building materials, including cement and steel.

"There are all kinds of possibilities," said the Jordanian source. "What is important here is for both Jordanians and Palestinians to appreciate that coordination and cooperation will benefit both sides and strengthen the overall Arab stand in dealing with Israel, which, no doubt, will be fighting tooth and nail for economic benefits from its peace accord."



'ORDERLY' PROTEST: An Israeli soldier watches supporters of the Islamic movement Hamas demonstrating in the streets of Gaza City Saturday, against the Israeli-PLO agreement. Some

2,000 people marched peacefully as confrontations with Israeli security forces were avoided on both sides (AFP photo)

30 injured in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — More than 30 people were wounded, 10 seriously, in a mortar attack near a Mogadishu hospital Saturday, as a U.S. soldier was injured in a separate mortar attack amid continued fighting in the capital.

At least 34 people were wounded when two mortar shells fell outside Digfer Hospital, said its deputy director, Doctor Mohammad Hussein Haji.

"I heard a huge explosion," he said. "Some people in our casualty department were hurt. After five minutes came another shell. It shook the whole hospital."

Eight of the 34 wounded were discharged within hours, he said. Most were hurt by shrapnel or splinters of glass from windows shattered by the blasts.

"Some of them are our staff. Some were patients with injuries who got new ones, and others were their relatives," he said.

Dr. Mohammad said it was unclear where the shells came from. A U.N. spokesman denied its forces were responsible for the attack.

Around the same time, a U.S. soldier was wounded in separate mortar attack on U.N. headquarters here, after U.S. Rangers had stormed a compound and detained eight Somali U.N. spokesman U.S. Major David Stockwell said.

He said the soldier's injuries were not life-threatening and that he was "in stable condition." He was being treated at a U.S. field hospital.

Suspected Somali militiamen fired four 60-millimetre mortar rounds into the U.N. compound, Maj. Stockwell said.

The shelling, which he said was apparently in retaliation for the raid on the compound of an aide of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aidede, followed a similar attack Tuesday that slightly wounded 11 people.

Maj. Stockwell said U.S. ground forces backed by helicopter gunships had seized eight Somali men at the compound of Osman Ato, General Aidede's chief financier, and marched them back to U.N. headquarters where they were being held.

Gen. Aidede, wanted for the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani soldiers, is believed to be hiding in the Bolkhara market area of south Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, U.S. soldiers tossed stun grenades from helicopters to drive away news photographers taking pictures of U.N. peacekeepers dispersing a crowd in Mogadishu, Maj. Stockwell confirmed (See page 2).

AFP's Abdul Hak Senna was photographing Pakistani U.N. soldiers shooting into a crowd of Somalis who erected barricades of burning tyres near a hospital when he heard the grenades popping around him.

Maj. Stockwell said he did not know whether the Pakistanis had shot into the crowd and it was unknown whether there were casualties among the Somalis.

Another photographer, Peter Northall, said U.S. soldiers only 30 to 40 metres away had waved at him from a helicopter to leave the area.

The photographers, who were unhurt, lodged complaints. Maj. Stockwell said he was "outraged" that Mr. Northall, who works for the American news agency Associated Press, had disobeyed the soldiers, and warned reporters that they covered military operations in Mogadishu "at your own risk."

"We don't want crowds around our soldiers," Maj. Stockwell said, stressing that Somali gunmen had often hidden behind mobs.

U.S. will stay its course in Somalia, Clinton affirms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Resisting calls for the withdrawal of American troops from Somalia, President Bill Clinton said Friday the United States cannot allow the country to revert back to a state of mass starvation and lawlessness.

"We certainly can't afford to do anything that would permit the country, after all the efforts the United Nations has made, to deteriorate to its former condition where hundreds of thousands of people are killed or starved at random," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton discussed Somalia during a White House meeting and working lunch with Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi. The two leaders later appeared at a joint news conference.

Mr. Ciampi stressed the need for diplomacy "to give a new political dimension" to U.N. intervention in Somalia. "Without this, a purely military action would not make any sense," he said.

Italy feels the United Nations is moving too aggressively against forces of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aidede, and that the focus should be more on humanitarian relief instead of confrontation.

Acknowledging differences with Italy, Mr. Clinton said, "both of us believe that some renewed political initiative in Somalia is important, because in the end there has to be a political settlement that leaves the Somalis in control of their own destiny."

The problem, Mr. Clinton said, is "how to do it without in any way rewarding the kind of behaviour that we have seen that could spread among all the other warlords who have been essentially playing by the rules and trying to work out a peaceful life for the people."

However, he said, "there plainly was never intended to be nor could there be some ultimate military solution to Somalia." Promising that the United States would not get bogged down in an indefinite commitment, Mr. Clinton said, "It's not going to be a situation we just can't get out of."

Mr. Clinton said the United States favours a political initiative to stop the increasing violence in Mogadishu, where U.N. peacekeepers are entangled in near daily clashes with the followers of Gen. Aidede.

Any political initiative must enable Somalis "to take control of their own affairs in peace, in dignity and without starvation and murder," Mr. Clinton said.

Casting doubt on any accommodation with Gen. Aidede, Mr. Clinton said, "We don't want to do something that rewards the very conduct we went to Somalia to put an end to."

On other foreign-policy issues, Mr. Clinton:

— Expressed cautious optimism about a surprise peace agreement between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims. "We are hopeful about this, but also properly

wary. ...There's been no territorial agreement and that is the nub of the controversy."

— Said he was exploring the possibility of a "donors conference" of major nations that would be asked to contribute billions of dollars needed for establishing a Palestinian government in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

— Urged China to "step away" from reported plans to resume nuclear-weapons testing, saying China has nothing to fear from any of the world's other nuclear powers.

There is growing sentiment in Congress for withdrawing American troops from Somalia. Last week, the Senate passed a resolution urging Mr. Clinton to seek congressional authority for continued U.S. involvement. The House of Representatives may consider a similar measure next week.

"It is plain to me that it was never an option for us to continue to pursue a military solution or to be obsessed with Aidede or anybody else, to the exclusion of trying to build a peaceful society," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton also said he was disturbed by the deaths of Somalis in clashes with U.N. forces. "But I'm also disturbed that this is plainly part of a strategy by supporters of Gen. Aidede to make the presence of the U.N. more unpopular there in all the member countries," he added.

Private sector in W. Bank, Gaza will play vital role

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Palestinian private sector will play a vital role in making sure the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on self-rule in Jericho and Gaza succeeds, according to a U.S. Agency for Development (USAID) official and leading members of the Palestine business community.

USAID works with the Palestinian private sector "because after all the political agreements are made, what is going to make it work, what is going to make it viable is the economy," Dennis Chandler, Acting Assistant Administrator for USAID, said during a Sept. 16 symposium in Washington on investment in the West Bank and Gaza.

The symposium was part of a networking conference sponsored by the Arab-American Business and Professional Association. Ten leading members of the business community in the West Bank and Gaza, here on a private initiative in cooperation with the U.S. Information Agency, attended the conference.

The Palestinian delegation is in the United States to establish links between the two business communities, find new markets for their goods and promote investment in the West Bank and Gaza. They represent most sectors of the Palestinian economy, including agriculture, bottling, consulting services, education, export-import, health-care, housing, insurance, and real estate.

"We are here to convince American and Palestinian businessmen to come to the area and invest and make partnerships," Mohammad Yazigi, regional manager of the Seven-

Up Bottling Company in Gaza said Mohammad Salim Al Qudwa, chairman of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, said there is a great need for equipment to establish industry and agriculture in Gaza.

Dr. Akram Mattar, director of the Gaza Environment Programme and Gaza Eye Hospital, said environmental problems in Gaza have been overlooked. There is a need for expertise in sewage treatment, waste product disposal and dealing with contamination, he noted.

"We will be needing everything," Ibrahim Abdul Hadi, chairman and managing director of the Arab Insurance Establishment Company and Arab Real Estate Establishment Company in Nabulus, said. An initial \$100 million are needed for investment in infrastructure, such as hospitals, factories and roads, he said.

While the needs are great, so too will be the profits, Mr. Abdul Hadi said. Once small- and medium-sized industries are set up and exporting and importing gets off the ground, the volume of business could "go up to \$20 to \$30 billion" a year, he said.

Recognising the important role the Palestinian business community will play in establishing economic stability in the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Chandler said USAID is increasing its programme with the private sector. "Beginning this year, we have specifically earmarked funds to work in the areas of training, technical assistance, and some information exchange and networking," he said.

"Specifically, we have projects directed exclusively at helping the local private sector to create jobs, to attract investment, start to

expand industries, market industrial and agricultural products, and to improve management," Mr. Chandler said. Furthermore, USAID will work in "such areas as health, family planning, institution development, and the democratisation process."

"We are in business and we are looking to expand our business operation," Mr. Chandler said. Expansion of USAID projects in the West Bank and Gaza "depends on a number of factors," such as the pace of political development, policies implemented by the Palestinian authorities, and available resources, Mr. Chandler said.

U.S. budgetary concerns are a major factor in determining how USAID programmes in the West Bank and Gaza will develop, he conceded. "We have horrendous budgetary problems that we are dealing with.... We are looking very much for private sector resources," he said.

In this regard, he commended the Arab-American Business and Professional Association for its work in attracting U.S. investment in the West Bank and Gaza. The Arab American business community must look to "repatriating" their investment dollars back to the West Bank and Gaza "to help to develop that economy and create a very favourable environment for investment," he said.

"I think there is interest in this country" to invest in the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Chandler said. U.S. investors, however, will pay close attention to Palestinian economic policies, the security situation, and the development of infrastructure and a banking system, he added.

Centrists win majority in Morocco

RABAT (R) — The centre-right held on to its majority in the legislature but four opposition parties made gains in Morocco's parliamentary elections, final results showed Saturday.

Five rightist parties won a total of 195 seats in the enlarged 333-member Chamber of Representatives, compared to 215 in the previous legislature of 303 seats.

The four opposition parties and their trade union allies, led by the old-guard Nationalist Istiglal Party and the Socialist Union of Peoples Forces (USFP), took 120 seats compared to 85 before.

Nine members of the minor Democratic Independence Party (PDI), three from the independent Union Marocaine du Travail (UMT) labour federation, four non-party independents and two from the rural-based Action Party also won seats.

The results issued by the Interior Ministry included the election of 222 members by direct universal suffrage on June 25 and the remaining 111 seats by indirect vote on Friday.

"The results reflect the true political map of Morocco," Interior Minister Driss Basri told a news conference.

Friday's vote was by members of local councils elected a year ago, by professional groups like chambers of commerce and industry, and by trade unions.

The new chamber, elected for six years, will be opened on Oct. 8 by King Hassan. He has said he will appoint a new government based on the parliamentary majority.

The next cabinet will replace the non-party interim government led by Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani, named by the king in August last year to organise the elections.

A dozen former ministers were elected. Jewish and women candidates failed to get elected.

The highest score was achieved by the main opposition party, the socialist USFP which, with its trade union ally, the Confederation Democratic du Travail (CDT), won a total of 56 seats compared to 39 before.

Second was the centrist Constitutional Union (UC), led by former Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, but it won only 54 seats compared to 83 in the old chamber.

The National Assembly of Independents, led by former Prime Minister Ahmad Osman, the king's brother-in-law, also lost ground with 41 seats against 61 before.

The communist Party of Progress and the Communist (PPS) made a remarkable advance from two seats to 10, including current Education Minister Taieb Chkili who joined the party after winning in the direct vote in June.

The Istiglal party won 52 seats, up from 43, and the small leftist Organisation for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP) doubled its score to two. These brought the total opposition score to 120 seats.

On the right wing, the rural-based People's Movement (MP) won 51 seats and its rival the National People's Movement (MNP) 25, while the National Democratic Party took 24.

Four rightist parties had an absolute majority of 215 in the old chamber. This time round five — now including the MNP — have the same total in the larger assembly.

League to back Israel-PLO deal

(Continued from page 1)

Also to be discussed is Iran's occupation of three Gulf islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with the league reaffirming its support for the UAE.

The league will further examine the situation in Somalia, a member country no longer represented on the ministerial council, and to decide on admission for the Comoros to the pan-Arab body.

Boycott not on agenda

"No Arab country has asked that a lifting of the boycott be considered," one Arab League source said. "And we don't expect any of our 21 members to do so by Sunday."

"The boycott does not figure among the 37 items on the agenda for the session."

The United States has called on Arab states to end the economic boycott following the signing of the Israel-PLO agreement.

Adnan Omran, the deputy secretary-general of the Arab League, said last week that a lifting of the boycott "is not foreseeable until a complete Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem."

The United States also recently

called on Gulf states to abandon the boycott and normalise relations with Israel.

State Department officials said Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to press for a start on easing the boycott during meetings with Arab foreign ministers later this month at the U.N. General Assembly.

The officials said Mr. Christopher is considering a trip to the Middle East in October if he believes his presence will advance U.S. objectives in the region.

Weakening of the boycott was one of four goals outlined Thursday by State Department spokesman Mike McCurry as administration priorities now that Israel and the PLO have agreed on a framework for peace.

He said the administration also is encouraging broad international support for the agreement and also is urging countries hostile to Israel to establish normal relations with the Jewish state. One potential candidate in this category is Morocco, which welcomed Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for a visit while he was en route home from Washington this week.

Mr. McCurry said the administration is also seeking to eliminate what he described as the "unhelpful language" about Israel in a number of U.N.

General Assembly resolutions approved over the years.

Other officials, asking not to be identified, said Arab opposition has normally succeeded in overriding American opposition to such resolutions.

The PLO said Thursday it is ready to end its antagonism with Israel in the U.N. General Assembly by revising resolutions against the Jewish state.

There are often 25 to 30 anti-Israel resolutions each year and, said one official, "we want to see this number greatly reduced."

The assembly also routinely approves Arab-sponsored calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East. U.S. officials say any such convocation would be strongly anti-Israeli, and they are optimistic that pro-conference Arabs may not get their way this fall.

"We have the best opportunity in years to head this one off," said one official.

U.S. officials believe an opportunity for weakening the Arab boycott of Israel is at hand not only among more moderate members of the Arab League but also among the many industrialised countries that have not taken a strong stand against the boycott. U.S. law forbids American citizens from honouring the ban.

COLUMN

Washington mayor challenged on casino gambling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Casino gambling in Washington could irreparably harm the capital's historic character and could hurt tourism, Acting City Council Chairman John Ray said. "In my view, casino gambling would tarnish the unique nature of the nation's capital as the seat of our country's government and guardian of its founding principles," said Mr. Ray. "(People) all over the world look forward to visiting Washington, D.C., not as a city of glitz and glitter, but as a city of history." The acting chairman added that he would introduce a resolution declaring that the council opposed Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly's interest in legalised gambling as a means to improve the city's economy. "The mayor (argues) that casinos should be considered for their potential to create new jobs," said Mr. Ray. "I am convinced that the promise of new jobs for our citizens is as much of a false promise as the prospect of 'beating the house' at gaming tables." A public hearing on the issue has been scheduled for Sept. 24.

James Joyce replaces Swift on Irish banknote

DUBLIN (AP) — James Joyce, who left Ireland for good in 1912, has come back as the new face on the nation's 10-pound notes. Joyce replaces Irish satirist Jonathan Swift on the new, smaller tender that the Central Bank of Ireland unveiled Friday. Ten pounds is equal to about \$15. Designed by Dublin artist Robert Ballagh, the note features a battleless Joyce against a 19th-century drawing of parts of the city and country wicklow by T. R. Harvey. Some opening words from Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale" are on the River Liffey, that runs through Dublin, are quoted on the reverse: "...river, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay." Born in Dublin in 1882, Joyce never returned to Ireland after a visit in 1912. All of his major works were published afterwards. Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, and was buried there in 1941.

Rick James convicted of assaulting woman

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (AP) — Funk singer Rick James was convicted of assaulting a woman even though he had told the jury, "I abuse drugs, not women." The jury acquitted him of torturing her. In a separate and unrelated case, the jury convicted James of furnishing cocaine to a woman he was charged with assaulting at his Hollywood Hills home in 1991. Prosecutors said he tied the woman to a chair, burned her with a crack cocaine pipe, and forced her to perform sex acts, but the jury deadlocked on all those charges. James, best known for the 1981 hit Super Freak, was ordered held in custody pending sentencing Oct. 8. Prosecutors said he could be sentenced to nine years in prison. "I'm concerned about the community's safety," said Superior Court Judge Michael Hoff. "I think he's a danger." James was convicted of assaulting Mary Sauger, 35, and holding her against her will on Nov. 3 in a suite at the St. James' Club and hotel. He was acquitted of torturing the west Hollywood woman.

'Senators received 680 free trips'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses, trade groups and other organisations that lobby Washington treated senators to 680 free trips during the last two-year session of Congress, a private group said. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston accepted the most trips — 28 — during 1991 and 1992, said Public Citizen, the national group founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader. Sen. Bill Bradley and Sen. Conrad Burns followed with 24 each. The trips ranged from short hops to New York and Boston to journeys to Taipei, Taiwan; Montego Bay, Jamaica; Vienna, Austria; and Tel Aviv, Israel. While many of the trips may have been necessary or valuable, many probably were not, Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook said. "In the minds of citizens, accepting gifts to travel from lobbyists is emblematic of what's wrong with government in Washington," Ms. Claybrook said during a news conference today. Public Citizen has proposed requiring the federal government to pay for all legitimate congressional travel. Special interest groups provide most of their trips to members of Congress who sit on committees with jurisdiction over their interests, Public Citizen said.